MARGARET COMICS

Fujii Akemi

2

I'll Still Love You Tomorrow

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MARGARET COMICS

Mitsuki is on top of the world when Imoi her former tutor and sister's friend, agrees to begin dating her Even with the seven year age gap, she's determined to make it work, even though she hardly ever gets to see him But her happiness slowly gives way to doubts when a year passes without ever breaking down the barrier she feels between them Does Imoi-san even like her at all? Or is the person he's really in love with her older sister and he's just going out with her because he didn't have the heart to turn her down? Maybe he doesn't take her seriously because she's still in high school? When she's with him, he always seems more of the serious type — but what is this about his playboy past?!

LOVE
M C
9809

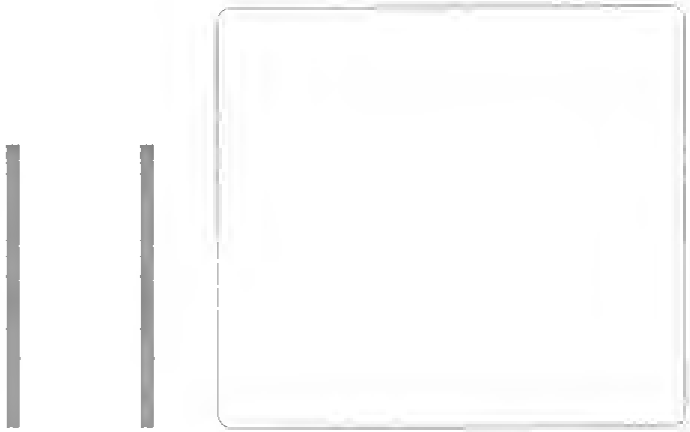
MARGARET COMICS

I'll Still Love You Tomorrow 2

Fujii Akemi

I'll Still Love You Tomorrow ②

Fujii Akemi



I'll Still *Love* You Tomorrow ②

Fujii Akemi

honk
honk
..LOOKS LIKE WE'RE STUCK.
VROOOM
I GUESS THERE'S NO HELPING IT. IT'S THE START OF THE NEW YEAR.
sigh
WELL, WE'LL PROBABLY BE ABLE TO MAKE IT BEFORE IT GETS DARK—
TENSE
...

VROOOM
WHERE WE WON'T NEED TO PAY FOR A PLACE TO SLEEP.
IT'S JUST A VACATION
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO BE THAT NERVOUS.
B--
BUT...
I'm nervous about just going on a vacation with Imai-san for three days.
It's during winter break, so we're leaving on December 30th.
I'm in a huge jam...

T-TO YOUR PARENTS' PLACE?!
YEAH, I HAVEN'T GONE TO SEE THEM AT ALL SINCE I STARTED WORKING.
PLUS, I WANT TO INTRODUCE YOU TO THEM TOO.
shocked
...OR WOULD YOU RATHER NOT?
I would!
No, no
But...
IT'S WAY OUT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, SO THERE'S NOT MUCH TO SEE.
THEY'RE PROBABLY TRAPPED IN SNOW DURING THIS TIME OF YEAR
But...

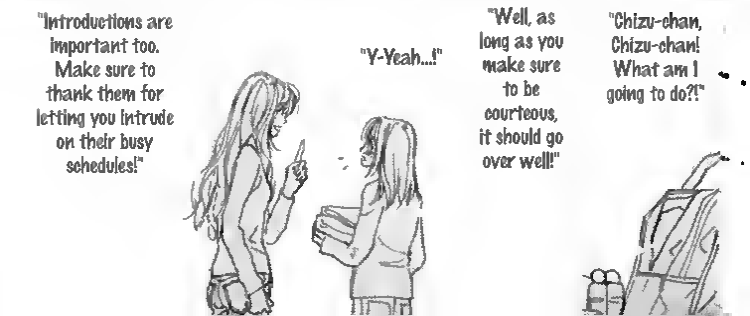
Well yeah, we are planning on getting married
and it's a no-brainer that I'd have to meet them ONE day...
but what if...
I'm not emotionally ready for this...!
they think I'm not good enough for him?!

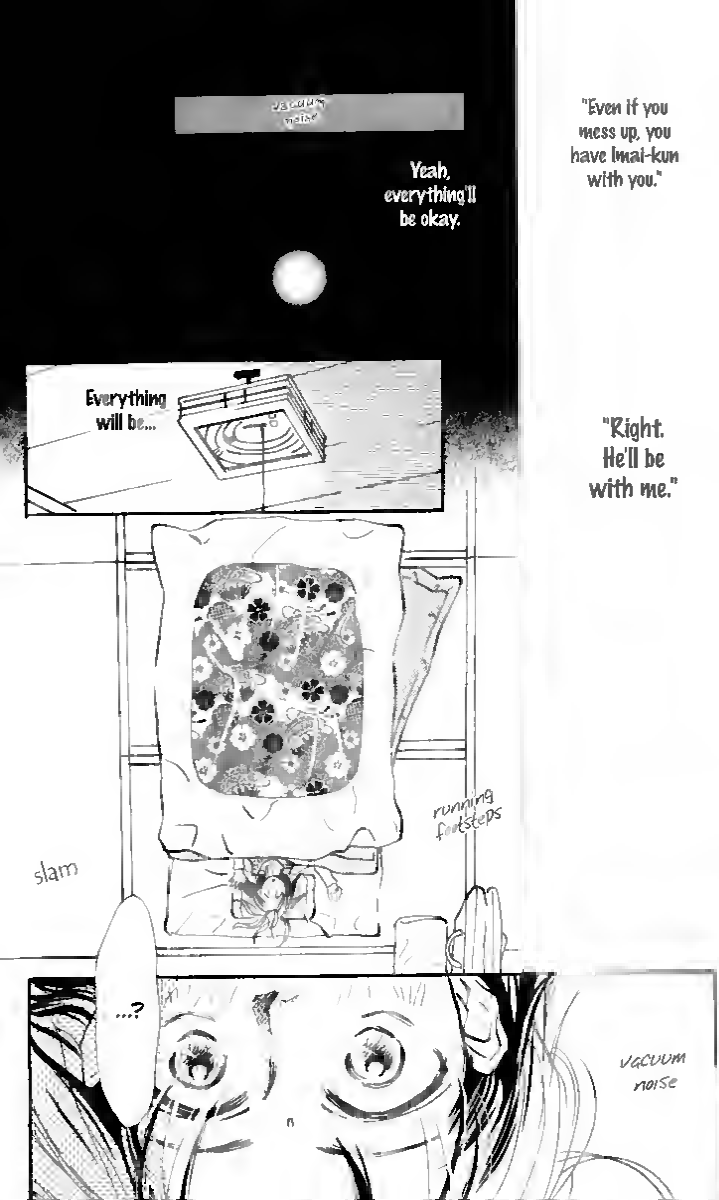
I practiced countless times with my sister,
but I have a feeling I'm going to screw this up.
And if I do...
THEN what am I going to do?!
DIZZY
Wah?!
...MITSUKI?
YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY?
WHAT...?

Imai
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
SCREECHH
BLEEHHHHH
ANIKI?!*
Whoa
SLAM
YOUSUKE!
OPEN UP THE FRONT DOOR FOR ME, WILL YOU?!
*T/N means "big brother."

running footsteps
No...
WHAT HAPPENED, NOBU-YOSHI?!
uu uu
SORRY, COULD YOU TAKE OFF HER SHOES FOR ME?
I can't!
I THINK SHE GOT A BIT CAR SICK.
I MADE HER THROW UP ONCE ON OUR WAY HERE, BUT SHE'S NOT FEELING ANY BETTER
OH MY!
I feel like I'm going to throw up if I try to talk!
HEY, DON'T MAKE ANY SUDDEN MOVE-MENTS
AH...
rustle
I have to...
introduce myself to them...!
uuuh...
TAKE HER OVER TO THE ROOM ON THE FAR SIDE TO LET HER SLEEP
All right

wahhh
No, it's not okay!
I-I'M SORR—
Uaahh
thud
IT'S OKAY. JUST GET SOME REST.
pat
pat
I have to make sure I properly introduce myself after I wake up!


"Introductions are important too. Make sure to thank them for letting you intrude on their busy schedules!"
"Y-Yeah...!"
"Well, as long as you make sure to be courteous, it should go over well!"
"Chizu-chan, Chizu-chan! What am I going to do?!"



"Even if you mess up, you have Imai-kun with you."

"Right. He'll be with me."

Gets up abruptly
?!
vacuum noise
...It's...
light outside...
rummaging footsteps
WHAT'S THAT NOISE...?
Someone's vacuuming?
tap
tap
tap
NO WAY!!
BLOCKED
Ishoujo Scans

Don't tell me I slept the whole night through?!
It's probably because I've been so nervous lately that I hadn't been getting much sleep...!
What am I going to do?!
I haven't even properly introduced myself to them yet!
I-I HAVE TO GET UP!
—AND CHANGE!
They're probably really disappointed!
Why didn't Imai-san just wake me up!
looks around
WHERE ARE YOU, IMAI-SAN?!
IMAI-SA—
tap tap
!
the box she's holding reads, Gift

He looks just like Imai-san!
Wah!
AH...
LOOKS IN
YOU-SUKE?
WHAT ARE YOU DOI—
vacuum noise
OH, 'MORNING!
Kitchen
Wh
oa
OH, GOOD MOR-NING
I WAS WONDERING WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU LAST NIGHT!
I'M GLAD YOU'RE FEELING BETTER!
!!

Hey
clatter
IT'S STARTING TO SNOW AGAIN. I DID CLEAN UP THE SNOW AROUND THE HOUSE BUT.
IMAI-SANNN!!
Whaaaaa! What am I going to do?!
AH..
AH..
EH..
HEY!
Imai-san!
sigh of relief
MI-TSUKI,
YOU'RE FEELING BETTER?
Y-YES!
UMM— I'M KOUNO MITSUKI!
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO PROPERLY INTRODUCE MYSELF UNTIL NOW!
bows
HEY, WHAT'RE YOU APOLOGIZING FOR? YOU WEREN'T FEELING WELL IT WASN'T SOMETHING YOU HAD ANY CONTROL OVER
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU TWO MUST'VE HAD TO DRIVE FOR HOURS TO GET HERE

Could this get any worse?!
Oh... right... I threw up... in front of Imai-san.
pulls
rustle
smiles
WELL YOU'VE PROBABLY GUESSED IT ALREADY,
BUT THIS IS MY MOM AND DAD
WHOA
AND THIS IS MY YOUNGER BROTHER, YOUSUKE. HE'S A YEAR YOUNGER THAN YOU, SO HE'S IN GRADE 10.
U-UM.. THIS IS FOR YOU...
WHY, THANK YOU.
SPROUTS OUT
Wow... even their voices are alike!
S-SHUT UP!
WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO RUN AWAY FOR?
The oranges are just really heavy!
rumble
rumble
rumble

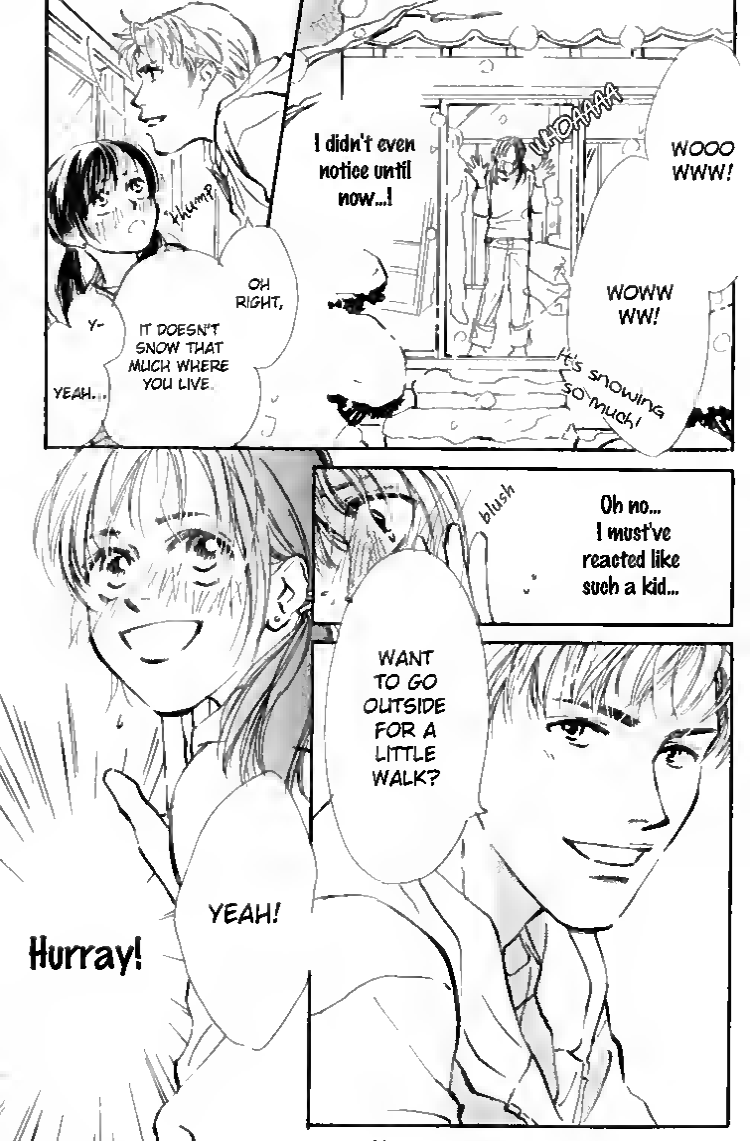
Ughhh~ get a grip!
I'm starting to really doubt...
This wasn't how things were supposed to go!
rumble rumble
KYAAA!
OH YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT. YOU HAVEN'T HAD ANYTHING TO EAT SINCE YESTERDAY, HAVE YOU?
WELL IT'S JUST ABOUT TIME FOR LUNCH ANYHOW!
breaks out into laughter

*T/N: never heard of this before, but I looked it up on google, and Toshiba makes something called a Mocchiko Rice Cake Making Machine

SLAM
SLAM
HEH!
click
click
click
WHOA!
No fair!
HEY! YOU'RE NOT PLAYING FAIR!
shocked
He's playing games while I'm—
thud
SLAM
YO!
I can't see the screen!
AHA* HA HA HA
HMMMM!
THUMP
YOU WIMP!
YOU WANNA WIN THAT BAD THAT YOU'D TURN TO DIRTY TRICKS?!
I DEMAND A RE-PLAY!
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY TIMES WE PLAY IT, I'M STILL GONNA END UP AS THE WINNER!
thud
OW!

They get along really well...
WHAT'RE YOU FOOLING AROUND FOR?!
SLAP
SLAP
SLAP
YOU STILL HAVEN'T FINISHED REPLACING ALL THE PAPERS FOR THE SLIDING DOORS!
HEY!
OW!
Ack!
OW!
tense
Well then
LET'S GET TO IT
Ah.
Whatever
SLAP
ignores
...Haha,
giggle
Imai-san's acting like a little kid!
Round two is gonna happen later!
Ow
Okay?
It's so different from the way he usually acts!

He...
hates
me...
shocked
shocked
shocked
WHY?
W...
OW...
IT'S
SNOWING!


WOOOWWW!
I didn't even notice until now...!
WOWW WW!
It's snowing so much!
Y-
YEAH...
IT DOESN'T SNOW THAT MUCH WHERE YOU LIVE.
OH RIGHT,
blush
Oh no... I must've reacted like such a kid...
WANT TO GO OUTSIDE FOR A LITTLE WALK?
YEAH!
Hurray!

I get to be alone with Imai-san!
Wait for me~
running footsteps
I haven't even gotten a chance to talk to him that much
even though we're this close to each other!
pat
WHA!
DID YOU MAKE SURE TO DRESS WARM?
YOUR EARS ARE GOING TO GET COLD.
WEAR THIS
OKAY.
Hehe.
Anyone home?
HELLO~
rattle rattle

Hello EVERYBODY
YO!
Whoa
WHOA! IMAI!
?!
HEY!
LONG TIME NO SEE!
SO YOU DID COME BACK HOME!
BLINK
?
WHAT'S UP? WHY'S EVERYONE HERE?
WE MET UP WITH YOUSUKE EARLIER TODAY.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHAT'S UP?
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU GUYS IN HOW LONG?
HOW'RE YOU GUYS DOING?
noise
noise
WHY DIDN'T YOU LET US KNOW YOU WERE BACK?

Blink
Um
WHOA, SERIOUSLY?!
HE HAS A KID NOW.
OH YEAH— KOKAWAJI'S BACK TOO.
IS THAT GT-R OUTSIDE YOURS?
YOU MUST BE ROLLING IN MONEY, I TELL YA!
HAHA, NO. I BOUGHT IT SECOND-HAND.
Hi
Ah.
HEY,
WHO'S SHE?
She's cute
Whoa...!
IS SHE A RELATIVE OF YOURS?
thump
NAH, SHE'S WITH ME.
Gaaah
OH MY.
I THOUGHT IT WAS RATHER NOISY OUTSIDE
OH— SO SHE'S YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
Kukoaaa
What?
WE JUST CAME TO SEE IF IMAI WANTED TO COME WITH US.
WE'RE WERE JUST ABOUT TO GO VISIT MORI-SENSEI.
OH, SORRY
COME ON IN AND HAVE SOME TEA!
It'll be chilly standing out there
HELLO.

No...
COME ON, LET'S GO.
AH...
NO, THAT'S OKAY I...
THERE'S GONNA BE LOTS OF BEER TO GO AROUND
THUMP!
He's going to go with them...?
SO ALL THE OTHERS ARE GONNA SHOW UP TOO.
HE'S GONNA RETIRE THIS YEAR.
AH...
YOU CAN BRING ALONG YOUR GIRLFRIEND IF YOU WANT
NO, SHE'S A--
EVERYONE'S GONNA BE WAITING FOR YOU TO COME
IT'LL BE FINE
WHY NOT?
He won't care
YOU SHOULD GO WITH THEM. DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
stab
...MI-TSUKI
IMAI-SAN!

To be honest... I don't really want him to go.
THANKS.
Squeeze
Pat!
YEAH. I'M SURE.
GO AND HAVE FUN.
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THEM IN A WHILE, RIGHT?
...ARE YOU SURE?
But...
rattle
rattle
SEE YOU LATER!
SEE YA!
SORRY, WE'LL BE BORROWING IMAI FOR A BIT~
slam
...

MI-TSUKI-CHAN—
COME IN HERE AND WARM UP!
We have snacks too!
tense
O-OKAY!
There's nothing I can do about it.
ignores
stab...
He saw his friends for the first time in a while...
Kitchen
...It's not as if we're just here for a casual visit.
I have to be more of a grown up...!

Well-
NOBU-YOSHI
DIDN'T MENTION THAT HE'D BE BRINGING SOMEONE HOME WITH HIM,
N-NO, IT WAS NOTHING!
AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE I CAUSED YOU YESTERDAY, IT'S THE LEAST I COULD DO!
WE WERE ABLE TO FINISH CLEANING UP EARLY
THANKS TO YOU
Now we can celebrate New Years in peace!
SO WE WERE A BIT SURPRISED.
What...?
Tadaima
IF YOU TWO WERE GOING TO GO ON A VACATION, HE SHOULD'VE TAKEN YOU SOMEWHERE MORE EXCITING.
IT'S PROBABLY NOT FUN FOR YOU TO BE STUCK IN A BORING PLACE LIKE THIS, IS IT?
THUMP
What...?
N-NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE.
ALL THIS SNOW'S REALLY BEAUTIFUL!

"IT'S JUST A VACATION!"
Don't tell me Imai-san didn't tell them...
about our engage-ment...?
stab
stab
Or am I the only one who thought it like that?
stab
Well yeah, it's not like we're going to get married right away.
Why...?
...Still...
then...
stab

Why did he bring me here in the first place?
...TSU-KI
MI-TSUKI.
SORRY.
I'M LATE.
NNN ...?
lifts

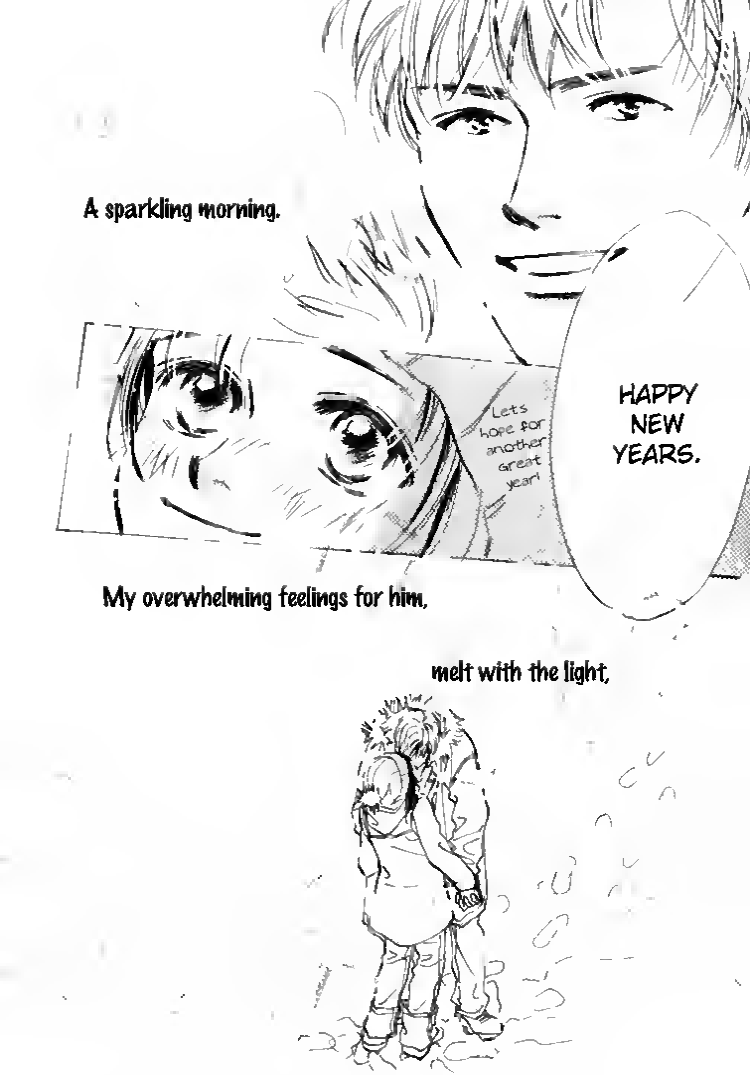
IMAI-SAN—?
squeeze
snore
snore
snore
PUT YOUR COAT ON,
AND LET'S GO.
...?
WHAT TIME IS IT NOW?
rattle rattle
WHERE ARE WE—
WHOA! IT'S SO COLD!
IT'S STILL DARK OUTSIDE, IMAI-SAN.
THIS WAY.
squeeze

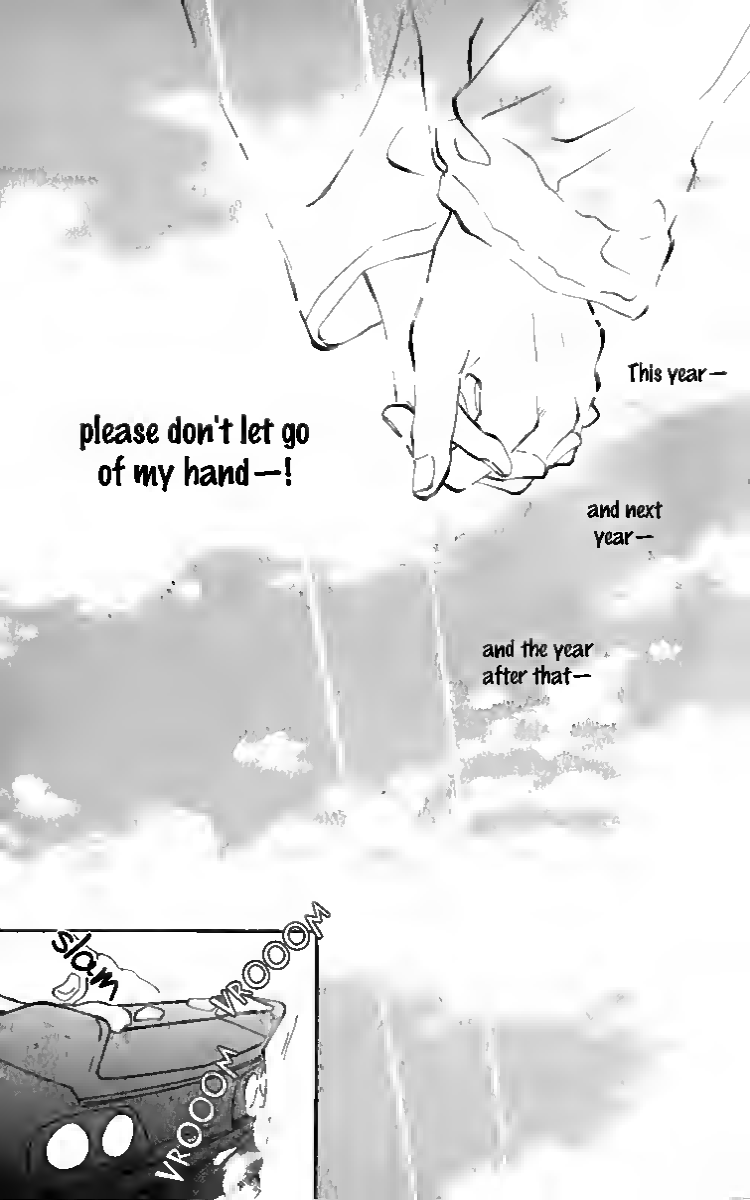
step
step
step
W-WHERE ARE WE GOING?
It's cold
step
Where does he plan on taking me...?
I wonder where we're going...
thud
A HILL BEHIND MY HOUSE
slide
WHAT?
AHHHH!
RUSTLE
step
JUST A LITTLE FURTHER
FOLLOW MY FOOTSTEPS.
AHHH!
turn
W-WHAT?!
squeeze
WE'RE STILL NOT THERE YET..?"
rustle
OKAY!
KYAA!
?!

thump
W-w-what's going on?!
blush
thump
thump
thump
Ah...
thump
thump
thump
thump
W...ow...
Why is Imai-san
suddenly
.....
LOOK.

THIS IS THE TOWN WHERE I GREW UP.

I USED TO COME HERE AND PLAY A LOT WHEN I WAS A KID.
IT'S SO PRETTY!
EVEN WHEN I GOT OLDER, WHENEVER I WANTED TO BE BY MYSELF, I WOULD COME HERE FROM TIME TO TIME.
I WANTED TO SHOW YOU THIS, TOO.
Imai-san.

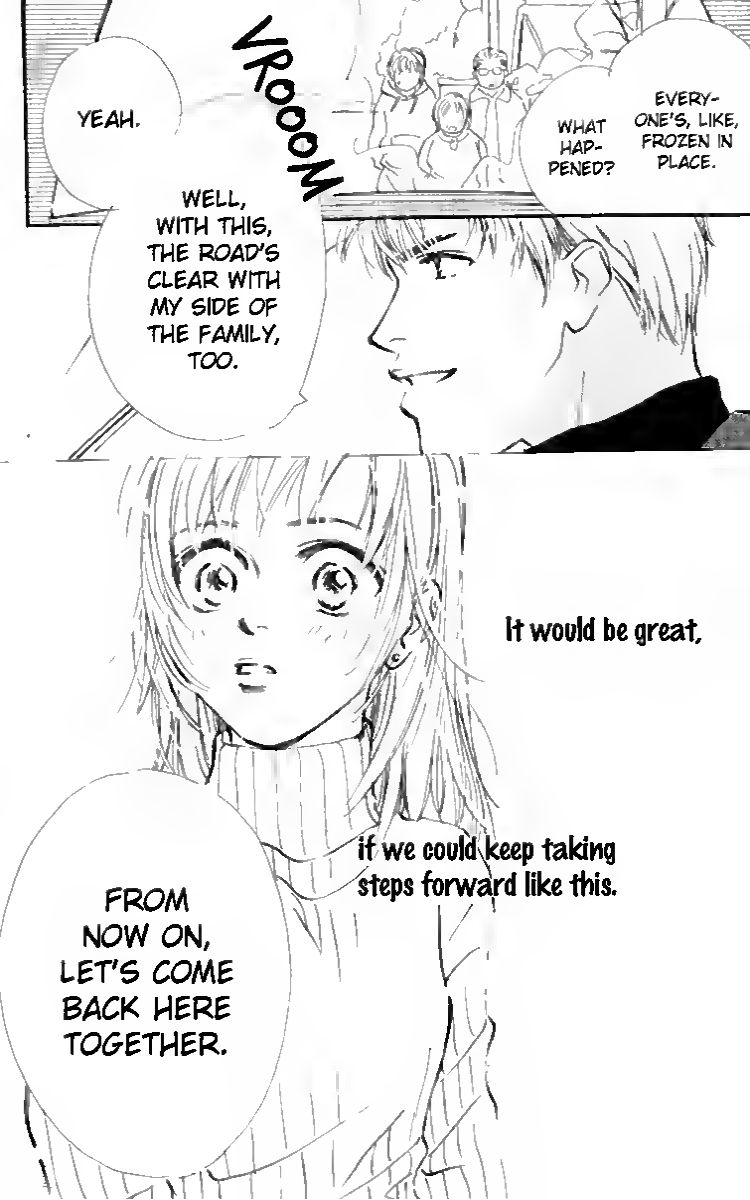

A sparkling morning.
Let's hope for another great year!
HAPPY NEW YEARS.
My overwhelming feelings for him,
melt with the light,
and it's as if it's falling down on the town.


please don't let go of my hand—!
This year—
and next year—
and the year after that—
SLAM
VROOOM
VROOOM

I'LL COME AGAIN SOON
OH REALLY?
Yawwwn
YOU HAVEN'T COME HOME IN SO LONG,
AND YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?
And so early in the morning, too!
YOU SHOULD RELAX AND SPEND MORE TIME HERE
SORRY, BUT I HAVE TO GET BACK BY TODAY
VROOOM
AH.
bows
I'm glad they turned out to be really nice people.
Even though I messed up countless times,
MITSUKI-CHAN, DID YOU TAKE SOME MEDICINE TO PREVENT CAR SICKNESS?
FEEL FREE TO COME AGAIN TOO
Y-YES, I DID. THANK YOU!
Uuu...
I'm not gonna give up!
ignores

This is the house where Imai-san grew up.
It'd be nice if I could come here again.
mumbles
..TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM
One of these days, I'm gonna become a woman that even his brother will accept!
clench
BE SAFE!
Vrooommm
AH.
vroom
?
SQUEEAALL
WHAT?
WAIT HERE FOR A SEC.
click
IMAI-SAN?

HEY,
DID YOU FORGET SOMETHING?
YEAH.
SHE'S STILL IN SCHOOL, SO THIS IS GONNA BE LATER DOWN THE ROAD,
Pokes head out
?
She can't hear what he's saying
BUT I'M PLANNING ON MARRYING HER. THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO SAY.
SEE YA!
SORRY 'BOUT THAT. LET'S GO.
slow
?
DID YOU FORGET SOMETHING?
YEAH, SOMETHING LIKE THAT.


WHAT HAP-PENED?
EVERY-ONE'S, LIKE, FROZEN IN PLACE.
VROOOM
YEAH.
WELL, WITH THIS, THE ROAD'S CLEAR WITH MY SIDE OF THE FAMILY, TOO.
It would be great,
if we could keep taking steps forward like this.
FROM NOW ON, LET'S COME BACK HERE TOGETHER.

please keep holding onto my hand.

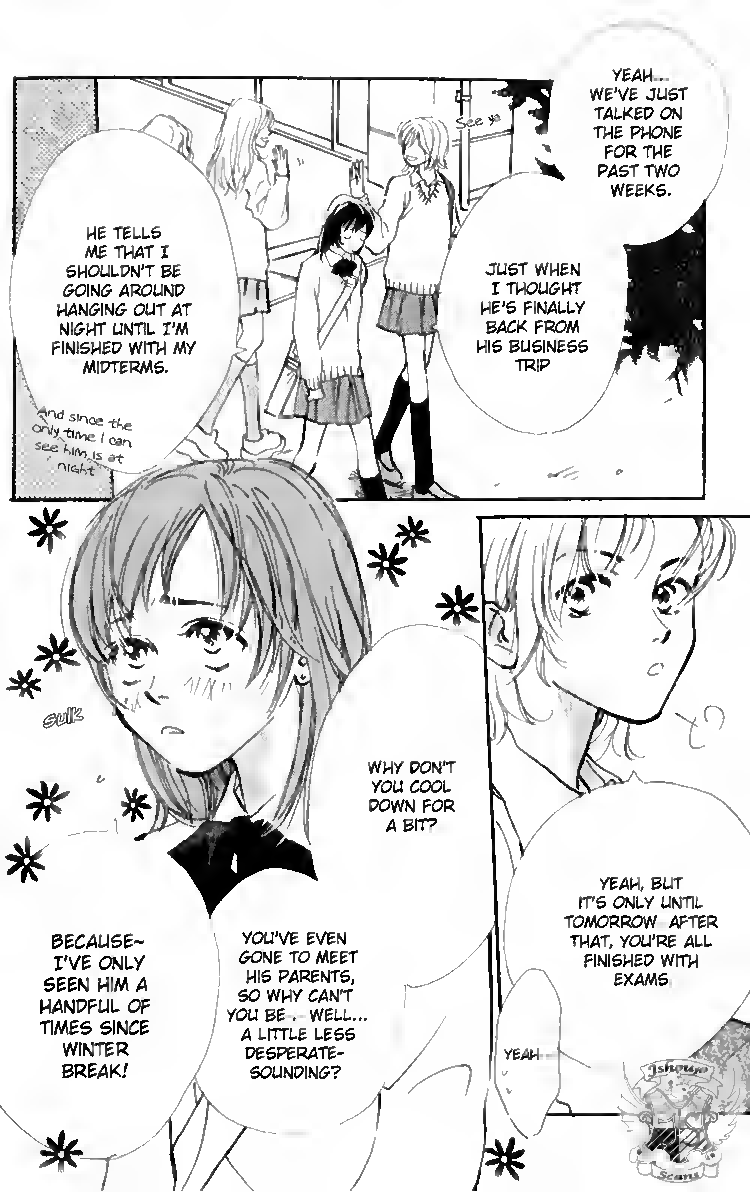
Ishoujo Scans

Translator oceansportrait
Proofreader createmagic
Cleaner aisei
Typesetter tery
QCer oceansportrait

CHAPTER 4

I'LL STILL LOVE YOU TOMORROW

Grade Year Examinations
The 4th Day
Math
I wonder why there's never a point in happiness when you're truly and completely fulfilled?
noise
HEY, WANNA STOP BY SOMEWHERE?
NAH, I'LL PASS. I HAVE BIO EXAM TOMORROW, AND I KNOW I'M SO TOTALLY GONNA FAIL.
See ya~
noise
SEE YA!
noise
HOLD ON, I WANT TO SEND A MESSAGE TO MY BOYFRIEND ON MY BELL
NOO~ I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT
WHAT! SO IT WASN'T #4?!
LET'S GO HOME~
noise
HEY, HEY, WHAT WAS THE ANSWER FOR #3?!
noise
Oh
SO YOU REALLY HAVEN'T SEEN HIM AT ALL?


See ya
YEAH... WE'VE JUST TALKED ON THE PHONE FOR THE PAST TWO WEEKS.
JUST WHEN I THOUGHT HE'S FINALLY BACK FROM HIS BUSINESS TRIP
HE TELLS ME THAT I SHOULDN'T BE GOING AROUND HANGING OUT AT NIGHT UNTIL I'M FINISHED WITH MY MIDTERMS.
and since the only time I can see him is at night
sulk
WHY DON'T YOU COOL DOWN FOR A BIT?
YEAH, BUT IT'S ONLY UNTIL TOMORROW. AFTER THAT, YOU'RE ALL FINISHED WITH EXAMS.
YEAH...
YOU'VE EVEN GONE TO MEET HIS PARENTS, SO WHY CAN'T YOU BE... WELL... A LITTLE LESS DESPERATE-SOUNDING?
BECAUSE~ I'VE ONLY SEEN HIM A HANDFUL OF TIMES SINCE WINTER BREAK!

Of course,
when we can't meet, he phones me even though he hates using the phone.
But I want to be closer to him than ever before.
Is that asking for too much?
WELL YEAH, OF COURSE
WELL YOU CAN SAY THAT BECAUSE YOU'VE NEVER BEEN IN THIS KIND OF RELATIONSHIP
YEAH, BUT SEEING HIM ONLY A FEW TIMES KEEPS THE RELATIONSHIP FRESH, DON'T YOU THINK?
RUSTLE
KOUNO MITSUKI-SAN!
KYA?!

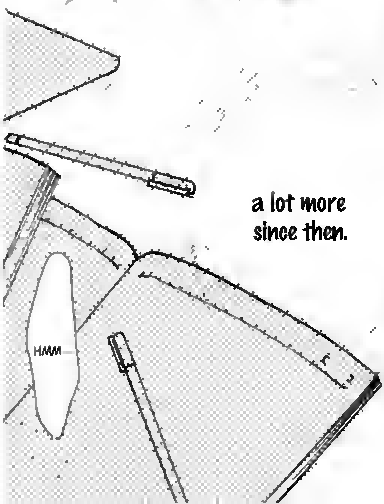
frozen
I-I LIKE YOU!
PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME!
WHAT DO I DO?
W-
What's going on?!
IS THAT A NO?!
?!
PLEASE!
Who is he?!
tense

He's really scary!!
MACHI-ELL-CHAN
I JUST THOUGHT YOU WERE REALLY CUTE!
I GUESS YOU COULD CALL IT LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT!
Hitsuki's school
I'VE LIKED YOU EVER SINCE I VISITED NISHIJO'S SCHOOL FESTIVAL LAST YEAR!
SHE'S ALREADY GOING OUT WITH SOMEONE
SHOCKED
T-
THEN
nods
nods
Y-
YES ?
IT'S TRUE . THAT YOU'RE GOING OUT . WITH AN OLDER GUY

Shocked
T-
THAT CAN'T BE TRUE...
NO WAY...
THERE'S JUST NO WAY YOU...
Shocked
Shocked
um.
I'M REALLY SORRY.
H-
HE REALLY SURPRISED ME
Is he an idiot or something?
WELL, I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY HE'D WANT TO DENY THE FACTS, BUT COME ON~
DASHES
THAT CAN'T BE TRUE!!
AWAY
AH!
S-SORRY
MITSUKI, YOU SHOULD BE MORE FIRM WHEN YOU REFUSE
FROM THE LOOKS OF HIS UNIFORM, HE PROBABLY GOES TO BAST HIGH
IT'S JUST I'M NOT USED TO BEING AROUND GUYS.
YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND FOR CHRIST'S SAKE!

But this
PLUS, I DON'T REALLY HANG OUT WITH ANY OTHER GUYS..
BUT.. WITH IMAI-SAN, I FEEL REALLY SAFE.
YEAH, I'VE NOTICED HOW YOU KINDA SUCK AT TURN-ING GUYS DOWN.
BUT WITH OTHER GUYS.. I CAN'T TELL WHAT THEY'RE THINKING, SO THEY'RE KINDA.. SCARY.

kind of reminds me of the time I told my feelings to Imai-san.



I WONDER IF I SHOULD MENTION WHAT HAPPENED TODAY TO IMAI-SAN...
hmmm
BUT SINCE I DID TURN THAT GUY DOWN... MAYBE I SHOULDN'T TELL HIM...
Study already!
ring ring
click
!!!
HELLO?
KOUNO-
Imai-san!!
chuckles
THAT WAS QUICK.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE STUDYING?
I- I AM!

LI-LIM... TOMORROW I ONLY HAVE TWO SUBJECTS TO WRITE!
roll
roll
AND THEN I'LL BE COMPLETELY FINISHED,
SO—
We can finally see each other!
...SORRY
WHAT?
TRUTH IS, I HAD TO GO AWAY ON A BUSINESS TRIP AGAIN.
I'M ACTUALLY CALLING FROM NAGOYA.
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET BACK IN TWO TO THREE DAYS THOUGH.
...MITSUKI?
But...
I'M HERE
tears up
you said we could meet as soon as my exams were over...

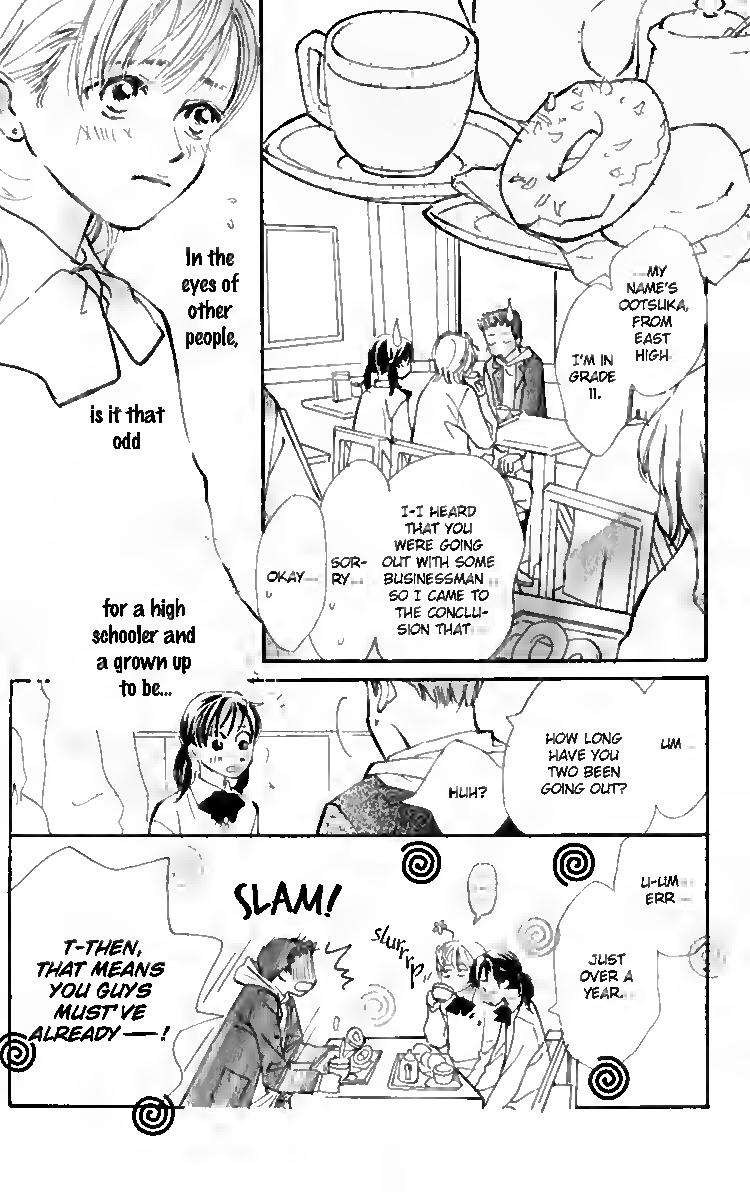
throb
A COUPLE OF OTHERS ARE WITH ME.
...NO,
ANOTHER BUSINESS TRIP, HUH? DID YOU GO BY YOURSELF AGAIN?
...I'LL BE SURE TO GET YOU SOME SOUVENIERS.
throb
He has to work again.
throb
...NO, IT'S OKAY. DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME...
...Maybe I am being a bit too selfish.
TAKE IT EASY THOUGH, OKAY?
Work, again.

rattle
Kyaaa~
THAT'S IT—
FINALLY! It's over!
HEY, LET'S GO TO MISTER DONUTS* FOR LUNCH
COLLECT THE PAPERS FROM THE BACK.
rattle
NAH, I'D RATHER GO TO MOSS BURGER~
rattle
MICHIRU-CHAN~ LET'S STOP SOMEWHERE ON OUR WAY HOME!
I feel like I might blurt out that I want to see him right now...
IT MUST BE TOUGH GOING OUT WITH A GROWN UP~
ERR - YEAH, SURE
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR "IMAI-SAN"?
HE'S AWAY ON A BUSINESS TRIP
DEPRESSED
school
chime
WAHHH! IMAI-SAN, YOU IDIOT!
ERR..

*T/n "Mister Donuts" is kinda like a Japanese Tim Hortons

YEAH, I KNOW THAT!
BUT I CAN'T HELP BUT BE A LITTLE JEALOUS!
BUT THAT'S AT WORK, RIGHT?
IT'S JUST NOT FAIR!
I CAN'T SEE HIM AT ALL! AND TO THINK OTHER PEOPLE CAN SEE HIM EVERYDAY IS JUST...
I haven't even gotten a chance to use the key he gave me during Christmas break.
IF YOU HAVE NOTHING BETTER TO DO, WHY NOT GO CLEAN UP?
You know, his apartment
WHAT!
BUT— DON'T YOU THINK GOING INTO HIS HOUSE WITHOUT PERMISSION LIKE THAT'S KINDA...
YEAH, BUT A SPARE KEY IS SOMETHING YOU USE WHEN HE'S NOT HOME, RIGHT?
IMAI-SAN'S NOT LIKE THAT!
YOU MIGHT FIND ANOTHER GIRL'S HAIR ON THE FLOOR~
You never know~
Imai-san's apartment, huh?
S-Still...
looks around
...
OHH~ YOU'RE THINKING IT OVER!
I-
I'M NOT!
KOUNO-SAN!
RUSTLE
pole

Him again?!
taken aback
I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOU'D BE THE TYPE OF GIRL TO DO THAT KIND OF STUFF!
IF SOMETHING'S TROUBLING YOU, YOU CAN TALK TO ME ABOUT IT! I'LL TRY TO HELP!
SO!
DON'T DO STUFF LIKE TEEN-AGE PROSTI-TUTION!
HE'S SERIOUS!
WHAT?!


In the eyes of other people,
is it that odd
for a high schooler and a grown up to be...
I'M IN GRADE 11.
MY NAME'S OOTSUKA, FROM EAST HIGH.
I-I HEARD THAT YOU WERE GOING OUT WITH SOME BUSINESSMAN SO I CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT...
SOR-RY...
OKAY—
HUH?
HOW LONG HAVE YOU TWO BEEN GOING OUT?
UM...
U-UM ERR—
JUST OVER A YEAR.
SLAM!
slurrp
T-THEN, THAT MEANS YOU GUYS MUST'VE ALREADY—!

MI-
MICHIRU-CHAN!
Passed
I WOULDN'T!
LET'S GET ONE THING STRAIGHT. DON'T GO AROUND SPREADING RUMOURS THAT AREN'T TRUE, GOT IT?
THAT PERVERTED GEEZER, I'LL NEVER FORGI-
WHAT?
AH! NOTHING!
SINCE HE'S AN ADULT AND ALL, IT SHOULDN'T BE THAT BIG OF A SHOCK
WELL, NO DUH
mumble mumble
beep beep
WHAT, YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
Close tongue
beep beep
IT'S FOR ME
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK
CLATTER
WHAT?!
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN JUST TURN A BLIND EYE WHEN MY FRIEND'S BEING HARASSED BY SOME BLUBBERING IDIOT!
I'M HERE TO TALK TO KOUNO-SAN!
WHY ARE YOU EVEN HERE ANYWAY!
AH—
U-UM—
ERR—
WHAT DID YOU JUST CALL ME?!

WHO IS IT?
D-Don't leave me alone with him!!
beep
beep
MAKE SURE TO GIVE HIM THE N-O, GOT IT?
Cli CK
N-No way!
panicking
M-
MICHIRU-CHA-
Um.
BOILED
WHAT A BITCH~
W-What should I do, Imai-san?!
UM...
YOU DON'T HAVE EXAMS TOMORROW, DO YOU?
N-NO...
tense
snaps out of it

Okay?
OUR SCHOOL DOESN'T HAVE ANY TOMORROW EITHER!
IF YOU HAVEN'T MADE PLANS ALREADY, WANNA HANG OUT?
WHAT?
IS THERE ANY PLACE YOU WANNA GO?
UM =
DO YOU LIKE ZOOS? OR HOW ABOUT AN ART GALLERY?
AH -
OR HAVE YOU ALREADY MADE PLANS WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND?!
thump
YOU DON'T LIKE EITHER?!
THEN WHY DON'T WE GO TO THE AQUARIUM?
W-What am I going to do...?
NO? THEN WHERE DO YOU WANNA GO?
He's not even giving me a chance to refuse...
NO. UM...
HE'S AWAY ON BUSINESS. SO..
Oooh~
WELL THEN! LET'S HANG OUT TOMORROW!
IF WE HANG OUT AS FRIENDS, THEN THERE'S NO PROBLEM, RIGHT?

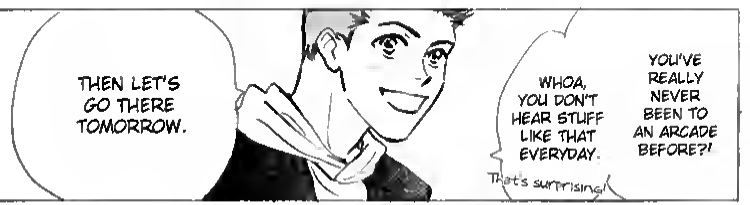
As friends...
thump
SO, IS THAT A YES?
YEP! AS FRIENDS!
AS...
FRIENDS ...?
SNAP
AH...
S-SORRY.
IMAI-SAN'S NOT AN OLD GEEZER!
YOU MUST HAVE STUFF LIKE THAT, RIGHT?
YOU KNOW, THE KIND OF STUFF YOU CAN TELL FRIENDS BUT NOT SOMEONE YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH.
BUT LOOK AT IT THIS WAY. YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TALK ABOUT STUFF YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO WITH HIM.
AND IT'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO HANG OUT WITH GUYS WHO AREN'T OLD GEEZERS!
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH HAVING GUY FRIENDS OTHER THAN YOUR BOYFRIEND!

——It's okay, if it's just as friends, right?

It's my first time being friends with a guy.

What was I getting so worked up over anyway?

I'm glad I didn't tell Imai-san about him confessing his feelings to me.


THEN LET'S GO THERE TOMORROW.
WHOA, YOU DON'T HEAR STUFF LIKE THAT EVERYDAY.
That's surprising!
YOU'VE REALLY NEVER BEEN TO AN ARCADE BEFORE?!

If he's a friend, then I don't have to go around letting Imai-san know each and every time
Plus,
since I'm sure Imai-san has friends who are girls...
since he's a grown up, he wouldn't mind.
I really am interested in going to an arcade,
I'M BACK ~~
and since I can't see Imai-san...
IMAI-SAN WAS HERE JUST NOW, WAITING FOR YOU.
WHERE WERE YOU, MITSUKI?

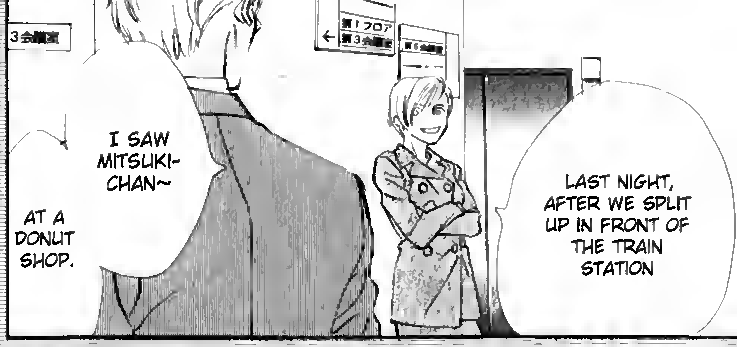
He was here?!
No way!
HE SAID HE HAD SOME WORK LEFT TO DO, SO HE WENT BACK TO HIS COMPANY—
Here are the gifts he brought back for you.
THUMP
WHAT ...?
Wh-
NO WAY! WHY DIDN'T YOU PHONE ME?!
HEY, DON'T BLAME ME
I TRIED CALLING YOU ON YOUR CELL.
Try listening to the message I left you.
No way!
DASH
MITSUKI! DON'T MAKE SUCH A RUCKUS!
NOOO!
No way!
HE WAS WAITING HERE FOR NEARLY TWO HOURS.
I can't believe you.
AW.
OH NO, THE BATTERY'S DEAD!
WHATTT?!

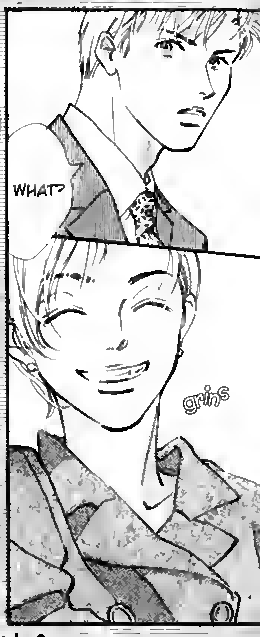
HELLO?
IMAI-SAN!
OH, HEY. MITSUKI?
Thump
ring
Imai-san!!
Thump
ring
ring
Thump
ring
Thump
IMAI-SAN... WHY?!
Y-YOU SAID YOU HAD TO GO AWAY SO I—
chuckle
CALM DOWN.
I ENDED UP FINISHING MY WORK EARLY SO I CAME BACK EARLY.
At around two, I guess?
SINCE I HAD SOME SOUVENIERS FOR YOU, I THOUGHT I'D STOP BY.

I wanted to see him...
I wanted to see him so much and I—
I am such an idiot!
squeeze
I-I'M SORRY.
I...
ARE YOU STILL AT WORK?
I DON'T MIND GOING THE-
JIJIJI
I DON'T THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO GO HOME EARLY TONIGHT.
AH..
I can see him!
TOMORROW... IF IT'S AROUND 4ISH, I'LL BE FREE THEN.
LET'S MEET.
REALLY?!
I'M-

"LET'S MEET AT 1:00 TOMORROW AT THE WEST END OF THE TRAIN STATION."
Tomorrow?!
I finally get a chance to see him and I...!
LIM...
LIM...
THERE'S one of it
WHAT?
WHAT?
DID YOU ALREADY MAKE PLANS?
...MIT-SUKI?
THUD
BUT...
I-I MIGHT BE A BIT LATE,
DID YOU MAKE PLANS WITH SOME-ONE ELSE?
N-NO! IT'S OKAY.
I CAN MAKE IT.

What's with me?
But...
I-I'LL DEFINITELY COME!
WELL THEN, COME OVER TO MY PLACE TOMORROW. ANY TIME'S FINE.
...
THUMP
THUMP
I can't tell him!
YOU HAVE THE KEY, RIGHT?
Y-YEAH!
...?
close





Well... He doesn't seem like a bad guy.

If I just apologize, he'll understand, won't he?

Since he IS a friend...

And, since Imai-san's going to go home at around sunset,
I'll have plenty of time.
I'll just meet him for a little bit, explain the situation,
then go to Imai's place—
Over here!
KOUNO-SAN!
YOU REALLY DID SHOW UP!
WOO HOO!

YOU LOOK REALLY GREAT OUT OF YOUR UNIFORM TOO!
WOWWWW
WOW! YOU REALLY ARE CUTE! I KNEW IT!
AH...
U-UM
UM...
THE TRUTH IS I...
tense
tense
tense
UM...
FIRST THING'S FIRST! LET'S GO EAT LUNCH SOMEWHERE!
...It's getting...
I WAS SO PSYCHED THAT I CAME HERE AN HOUR EARLY!
AH...
really hard to tell him the truth now...
Ughh... I'm an idiot...
I'M STARVING! LET'S GO!
...

I should've just turned him down from the very beginning,
like Michiru-chan told me to.
I have to find a way to fix this problem on my own!
No matter how you look at it, I'm the bad guy here!
slide
THEN YOU HAVEN'T PLAYED ANY OF THE GAMES EITHER?
N-
NO...
AH!
clank
beep
Wow... It's so noisy!
HEY! THERE'S A PURIKURA* MACHINE!
LET'S TAKE A PIC!
WHAT?
WHY NOT?
And it reeks of cigarettes!
YOU'VE TAKEN PURIKURA SHOTS, HAVEN'T YOU?
rumble
rumble

*T/N: Purikura are those machines you get into and take pictures that come out as little tiny stickers ^^

I look so weird.
I haven't even taken puri-kura shots with Imai-san yet...
I want to, but I'm afraid he's going to think of me as a kid.
I've given him purikura shots of me though.
I feel really out of place...
Here's your shake.
Imai-san's still at work... probably.
...I really want to get to his place before he does.
Kyaa
Croak~
Frog
WOO HOO!
W-WHAT?
YOU'RE PRETTY QUIET, HUH?
KOUNO-SAN,
OH NO IT'S GETTING PRETTY LATE ALREADY

I have to tell him!
I can't wait any longer!
U-UM...!
HOW ABOUT THAT ONE OVER THERE...
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO NEXT?
HEY, WHAT DO YOU TALK ABOUT WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND ANYWAY?
WHAT—?
WELL, HE'S LIKE A LOT OLDER THAN YOU, RIGHT?
AND SINCE YOU DON'T TALK MUCH, DO YOU GUYS NOT HAVE LOTS TO TALK ABOUT?
W-WE TALK ALL THE TIME!
I-I'M ACTUALLY NOT THAT QUIET... WE TALK ABOUT SCHOOL AND..
beep
clank
croak~
WHATTT!
NO WAY—!
I'M NOT INTO GIRLS WHO ARE FULL OF THEM-SELVES
YOU KNOW HOW THERE ARE LOTS OF GIRLS WHO HAVE THAT, LIKE, "OH, I'M SO INDEPENDENT" ATTITUDE, YOU KNOW?
there, I have lots at home
I FIND GIRLS LIKE YOU CUTE.
Yeah.
YOU STILL HAVEN'T SEEN ALL THE THINGS THERE ARE TO SEE IN THE WORLD, YOU KNOW?

I'M REALLY SORRY...
BUT I ALREADY MADE PLANS WITH MY BOYFRIEND!
HUH...?
BUT I THOUGHT YOU SAID HE HAD WORK?
WELL... YEAH... BUT LAST NIGHT HE SUDDENLY PHONED ME AND—
HEY, BUT THAT MEANS I WAS FIRST!
I did something really stupid!
I'M REALLY SORRY!
I know this isn't fair to him either!
...DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE ALWAYS
I was the one who wanted to see him!
CHANGING YOUR PLANS TO FIT HIS?
N-NO...
LET ME GUESS, YOU COULDN'T TELL HIM
NO?

What should I...
IT'S PROBABLY EASY, FOR A GEEZER LIKE HIM TO WRAP SOMEONE LIKE YOU AROUND HIS FINGER!
Arrghh
I KNEW IT! YOU'RE BEING TRICKED BY HIM!
N-NO, THAT'S NOT IT, I-
DAMN IT; THAT BASTARD!
tremble
tremble
H-He's misunderstood things...!
What am I going to do...?!
He's not letting me go, Imai-san!
I'M NOT GONNA LET YOU GO AND SEE HIM!!

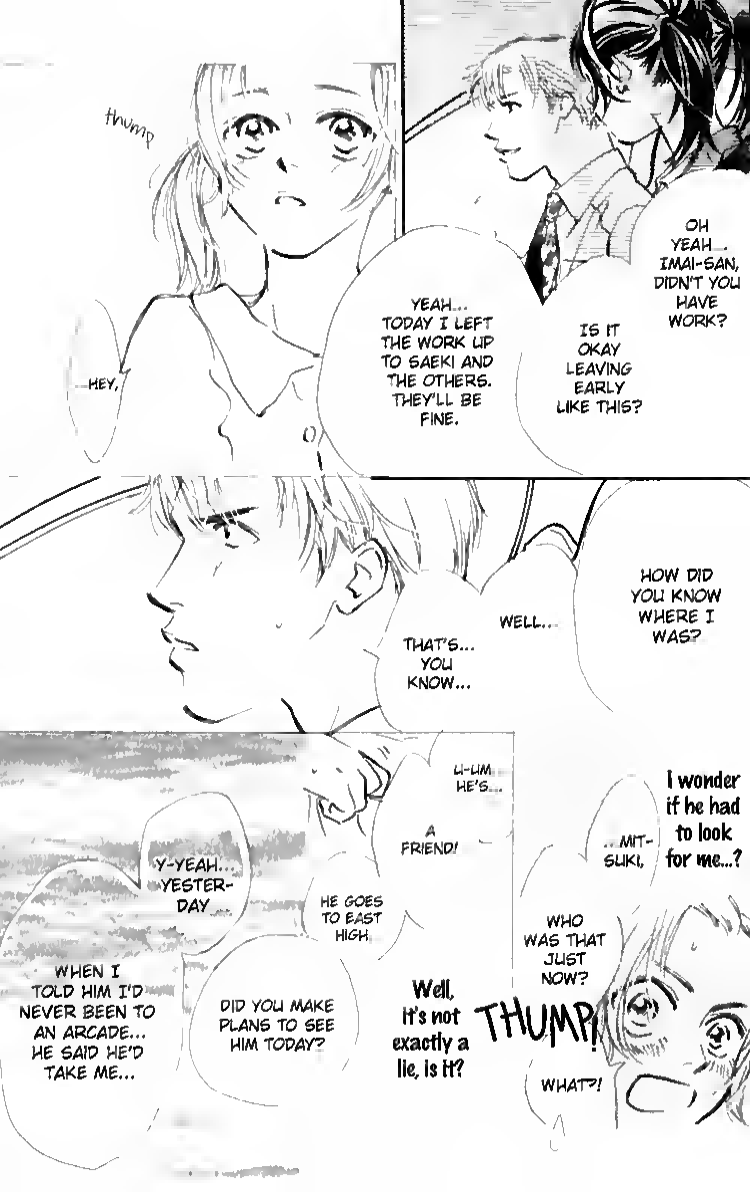
—?!
WHAT KIND OF RIDICULOUS THING ARE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?!

turns
N-NO I—
Ah.
IMAI-SA-
HEY! WAI-
snaps out of it
W-
WAIT...
STEP
STEP
STEP
TAKEN ABACK
I-IT'S—
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
IT'S—
He's mad...?
Imai-san...!!
BE-CAUSE YOU—

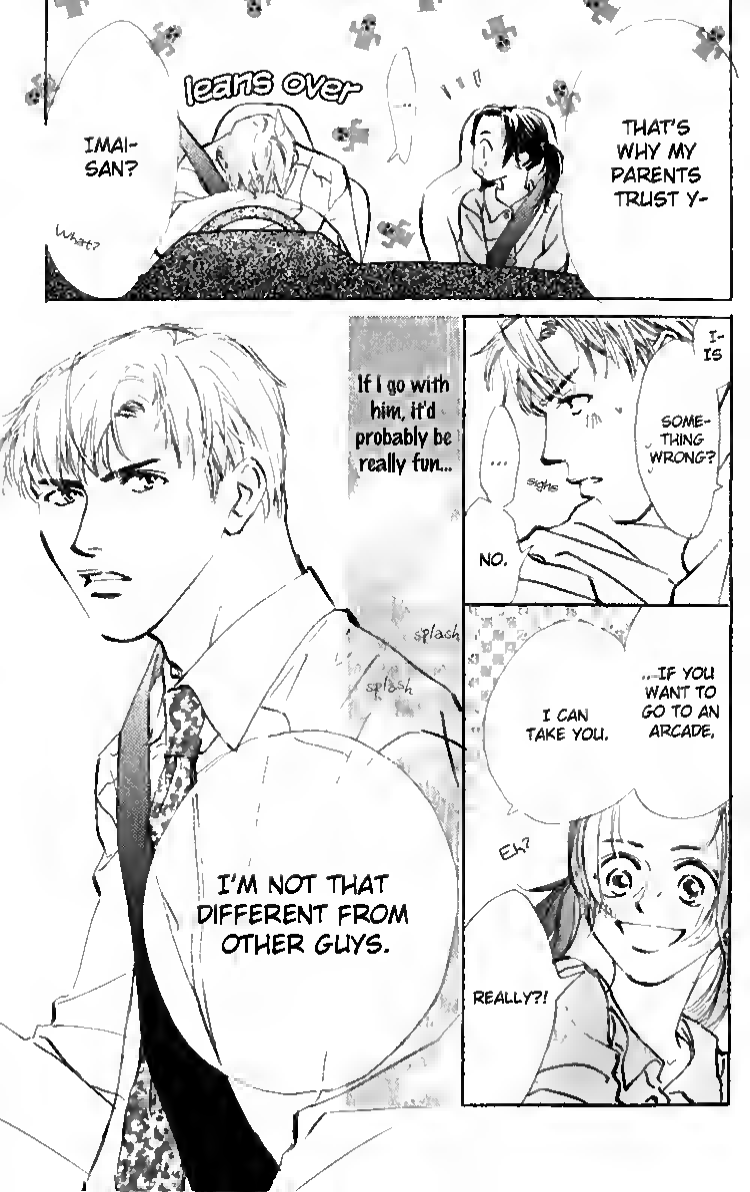
WHAT?! IF YOU HAVE A GOOD EXPLANATION FOR THIS, I'D LIKE TO HEAR IT!
Tense
thump
thump
thump
thump
thump
Ah...

I did something really stupid...
I did something...
really stupid.
I'M
SORRY
I'm so sorry...!
If Imai-san had done the same thing,
I would've been mad at him too.
I'M SORRY...

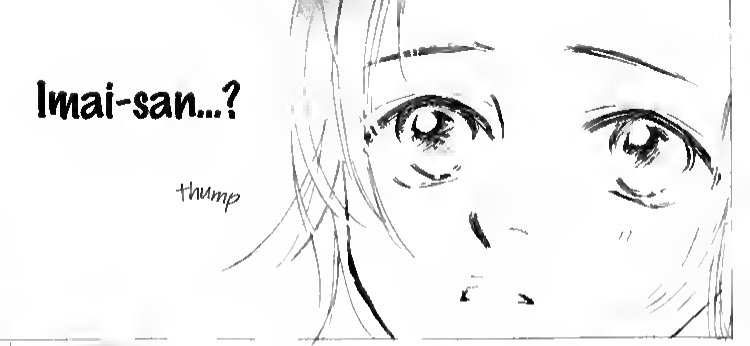
FINALLY, I GET TO SEE YOU...
VROOM


thump
HEY,
YEAH... TODAY I LEFT THE WORK UP TO SAEKI AND THE OTHERS. THEY'LL BE FINE.
IS IT OKAY LEAVING EARLY LIKE THIS?
OH YEAH... IMAI-SAN, DIDN'T YOU HAVE WORK?
HOW DID YOU KNOW WHERE I WAS?
WELL...
THAT'S... YOU KNOW...
U-UM HE'S...
A FRIEND!
HE GOES TO EAST HIGH.
Y-YEAH... YESTERDAY...
WHEN I TOLD HIM I'D NEVER BEEN TO AN ARCADE... HE SAID HE'D TAKE ME...
DID YOU MAKE PLANS TO SEE HIM TODAY?
Well, it's not exactly a lie, is it?
...MITSUKI,
I wonder if he had to look for me...?
WHO WAS THAT JUST NOW?
THUMP!
WHAT?!

IT WAS KINDA SCARY HANGING OUT WITH JUST HIM...
AND BECAUSE I DON'T REALLY HANG OUT WITH GUYS ALL THAT MUCH...
BUT I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO PLAY ANY OF THE GAMES SO IT WAS PRETTY BORING...
Plus it was really noisy
Since Imai-san was playing video games with Yousuke-kun,
I wanted to be able to play them too...
Whattt~?!
I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU AT ALL!
chatter
...WHAT ABOUT ME?
WHAT?
AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF ME?
BECAUSE YOU'RE REALLY NICE,
AND YOU'RE SOMEONE I CAN TRUST—
Vroom


leans over
IMAI-SAN?
What?
THAT'S WHY MY PARENTS TRUST Y-
I-IS
SOME-THING WRONG?
... sighs
NO.
..IF YOU WANT TO GO TO AN ARCADE,
I CAN TAKE YOU.
EH?
REALLY?!
If I go with him, it'd probably be really fun...
splash
splash
I'M NOT THAT DIFFERENT FROM OTHER GUYS.

turns
...
pitter-patter
pitter-patter
pitter-patter
thump
click
EH...?
VROOM



I sensed the faint signs...

of an incoming storm.

Volume 2 Chapter 5

MR. IMAI NOBUYOSHI
YEAH, AND CHIZU-CHAN'S DECIDED ON HER WEDDING DAY.
SHE TOLD ME TO GIVE THIS TO YOU.
The start of Spring Break
gave off a faint scent of uneasi-ness.
...The rain of early spring was still a bit cold,
so it felt a little too chilly to go out in my favorite clothes.

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OH...
MAY 5TH, HUH?
YEAH. DO YOU THINK YOU CAN MAKE IT?
DON'T WORRY. I'LL MAKE SURE TO LEAVE THAT DAY OPEN.
BECAUSE I KNOW IF I DON'T, I'M GOING TO END UP WITH AN EARFUL FROM CHIZUKA.
OH YEAH, AND SHE WENT IN TO DO HER FITTING YESTERDAY,
AND I WENT WITH HER.
HER DRESS IS REALLY SIMPLE, BUT IT'S AWESOME!
SHE LOOKS GREAT IN IT BECAUSE SHE'S REALLY TALL!
HAHA.

I wonder if I'm going to wear
a dress like that one day...
BLUSH
HUH?
GIRLS AND THEIR WEDDING DRESSES.
I GUESS THAT'S ONE OF YOUR DREAMS TOO, HUH?
W-
WELL ...
THUMP
I'LL MAKE SURE YOU GET TO WEAR ONE, TOO, ONE DAY.
How come he always knows what I'm thinking?
Hmm
flips through
Y-
YEAH ..
BLUSHING

AH!
but he always knows the right thing to say.
He's not really talkative,
rustle
HMM .. THIS ONE'S FROM A WHILE AGO
AND THEN THIS ONE TOO...
WOW... YOU TOOK ALL OF THIS?
I GOT SOME NEW PICS WITH CHIZU-CHAN YESTERDAY! LOOK!
SO THAT'S WHERE YOU PUT MY PURIKURA PIC!
rummage
W-WELL, I CAN'T HELP IT... WHENEVER I SEE THAT THEY HAVE A NEW FRAME* OUT ..
uuu
...Is it really childish of me?

translator's note: For purikura units [illegible]

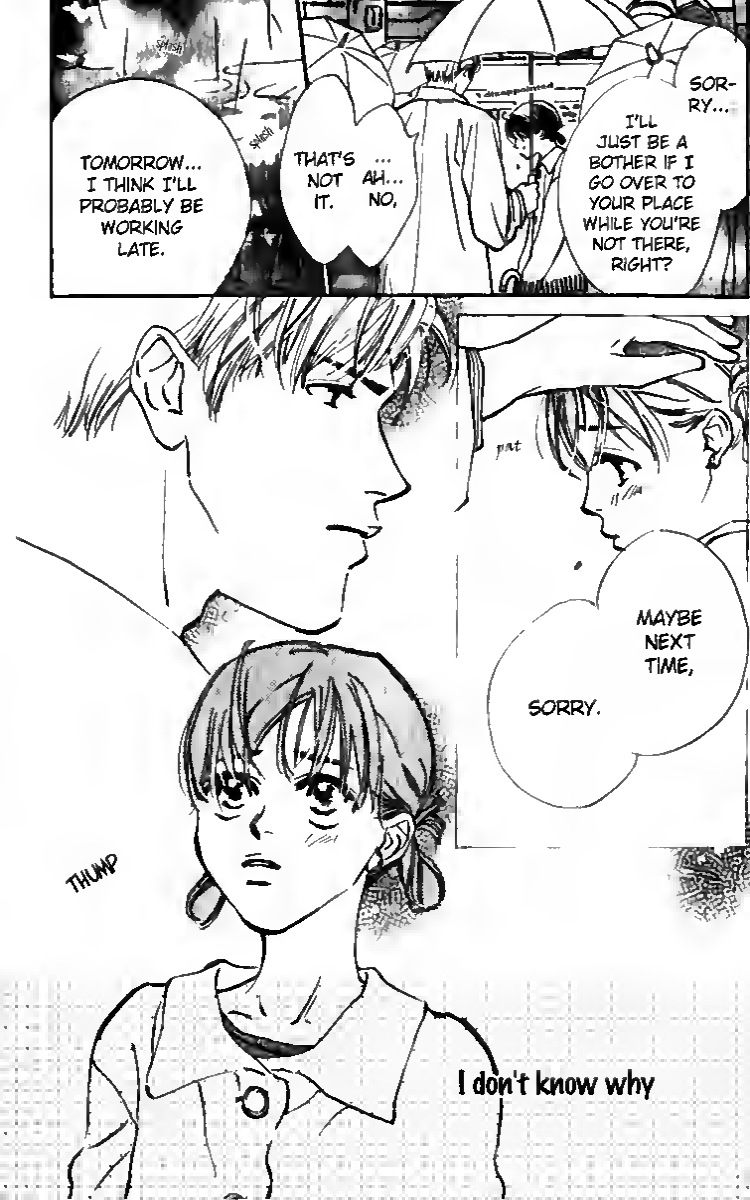
even if we take just one.

But... I wish that I could get a picture with Imai-san...

Oh no...!
I forgot I left it in there!
U-UM... THAT....
WAS THE ONE I TOOK AT THE ARCADE ...
chatter
...WHAT ABOUT THIS ONE?
EH?
AH!
WE TOOK JUST ONE PIC TOGETHER...
CRUMPLE
..EH?
UMMM
ERR

throws
speechless
CLATTER
WE BETTER GET GOING.
Oh no... is he mad?
Imai... san?
AH ...
thud
POUNDER
splash
splash

...Phew.
He's his normal self.
...UM,
IS IT OKAY FOR ME TO GO OVER TO YOUR PLACE TOMORROW?
relieved
HMM?
SPLASH
Splash
TENSE
...MY PLACE ?
And, it'll give me a chance to use my spare key!
U... M...
THUMP
AH...
SO I THOUGHT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SPEND A BIT MORE TIME TOGETHER IF WE...
I DON'T HAVE ANY SCHOOL TOMORROW,
YEAH! I'LL WAIT FOR YOU TO COME BACK!


SORRY... I'LL JUST BE A BOTHER IF I GO OVER TO YOUR PLACE WHILE YOU'RE NOT THERE, RIGHT?
WAH!
AH... NO, THAT'S NOT IT. ...
SPLISH
SPLISH
TOMORROW... I THINK I'LL PROBABLY BE WORKING LATE.
pat
MAYBE NEXT TIME, SORRY.
THUMP
I don't know why

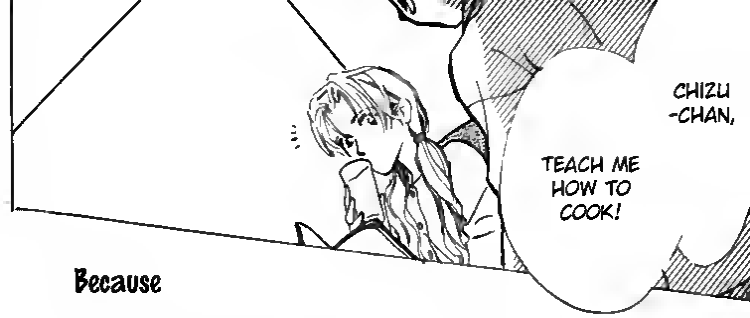
but lately, he looks at me

like he's mad, or like he's a bit troubled.

Did I do something wrong again...?

It's not because of what happened last time... is it?
That would be weird because he's not the type to drag stuff on like that...
Or maybe he's just tired because of work.
POURS
CHIZU-CHAN, DO YOU WANT SOME?
SURE.
YEAH, HE'S BEEN GOING ON A LOT OF BUSINESS TRIPS LATELY. SO AS LONG AS HE DOESN'T GET SICK, THEN EVERYTHING'S FINE...

YOU'VE BEEN BUYING A LOT OF COOKING BOOKS LATELY.
WOW... THAT LOOKS DELICIOUS!
HERE YOU GO.
THANKS.
OKAY...
PISSED OFF
I'M GONNA SHOW HIM WHO'S THE BETTER COOK!
IT TURNS OUT HE KNOWS MORE ABOUT COOKING THAN I DO.
HE JUST KEPT THAT INFO FROM ME!
Now that I think about it...
I can't cook at all...!
!
maybe Imai-san DOES know how to cook!
He did have cooking stuff in his kitchen,
but he eats out all the time...

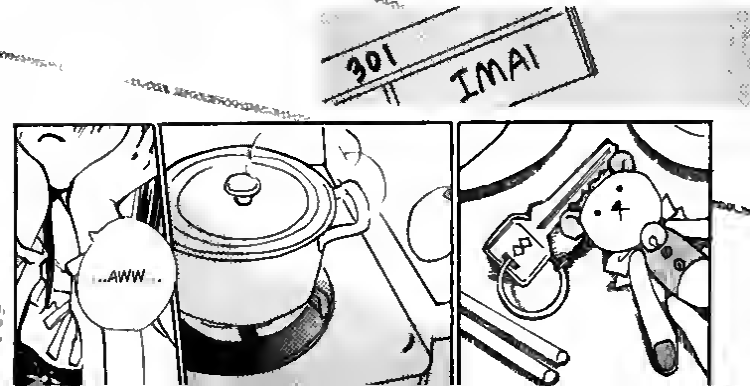


Because

if he keeps on eating out like this, his body's not going to hold up.

As thanks for giving me a spare key,

I'll go and surprise Imai-san!



7
Well, I guess there's nothing I can do about it. I came without telling him, after all.
disappointed
IT LOOKS LIKE THIS IS GONNA BE CHRISTMAS ALL OVER AGAIN.
IF I DON'T GET HOME SOON, I'M DEAD ...
CLATTER
GEEZ ...
If only we were married,
I wouldn't have to worry about curfew.
CLANK
CLANK
turns around
!
CLICK
!?

WEL-
COME
BACK
!
...
MITSU-
KI?!
WHY
ARE
YOU
...
I'M
SO
GLAD!
I WAS
JUST
ABOUT TO
GO HOME!
DID YOU
HAVE DINNER
ALREADY?!

CLICK
Yay!
I KNEW IT! THAT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOU!
NO..
I THOUGHT I'D JUST HAVE SOME BEER AND SNACKS..
I'LL WARM THIS UP FOR YOU, SO WAIT JUST A BIT, OKAY?
IT'S MY FIRST TIME MAKING IT, SO IT MIGHT NOT BE ANY GOOD, BUT...
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
This is great!
OH, RIGHT.
YOU PROBABLY WANT TO TAKE A BATH—
THUMP...
SO-RRY,
I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE WITHOUT ASKING, RIGHT?
...Ah...

smiles
I'LL GET THIS READY RIGHT AWAY!
That's a relief!
...I WAS JUST SURPRISED, THAT'S ALL.
I DON'T MIND.
...DON'T BE SILLY.
Imai-san, you're too strait-laced.
SIZZLE SIZZLE
I SAID IT'S FINE...
IT'S SPRING BREAK, AND I TOLD THEM I'D BE OVER AT YOUR PLACE.
CLANK
THANKS.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.
YOU SHOULD GET READY TO HEAD HOME.
I'LL DRIVE YOU.
NO. IT'LL BE PAST 9 WHEN YOU GET BACK EVEN IF YOU LEAVE NOW.
I CAN STAY FOR A BIT LONGER!
WHATTT!

...ALL THE MORE REASON TO GET YOU BACK.
HERE, TURN THAT OFF.
EHH! WHY—?!
COME ON, LET ME JUST STAY FOR A LITTLE LONGER...
Imai -san ...
squeeze
I WANT TO BE WITH YOU
FOR JUST A LITTLE LONGER.
I'm lonely...
PLEASE ...

...Mi-
TSUKI.
Even
though
I love you
this much,
we
hardly
ever get
to be
with each
other.
...
Idiot,
THUMP
...
AH.
I only
want to
spend
time with
you...
SORR-
squeeze
I'm just
causing
trouble
for
him.

!!
THUMP
DON'T KNOW ANY-THING.
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYT-
Ima-

THUMP
I-
Wh...
Oa...
WHO DO YOU THINK I AM ANYWAY?!
THUMP
W-What should I do?!
THUMP
IMAI... SAN.
THUMP
THUMP
Wh-at?
IMA-

BLUSHES
CLATTER
...N.
Ima...
!
Imai-san!

PULLS
thud
I...
CAN'T BREA-THE
Wheeze
!?
No...!
slide
LILI
CLATTER
NN...
No way ...!

PULL
No!
thud
thud
HEY...
WA-IT...
NO...
WA-
?!
OW...
BE QUIET.
THUMP

This isn't...
N... O...
I'm sca-red ...!
STOP ...
This is scary!
This isn't
N... O...
STOP.
SLAM
like him at all...!
NO...
ZOOOOOO!
SLASH

.....!
.....
wheeze...

THUMP
tremble
ha.
tremble
THUMP
THUMP
TENSE
.....
wheeze...
Thud
Imai...
sa...
GO HOME.
THUMP
.....
wheeze
breath in
AH...

I CAN'T DRIVE YOU HOME.
...
SORRY.
IMA
GO!
SLAM
NOW!

dashes
click
slam
clink
rattle
clat-ter
.....
damn it.
whee-ze
whee-ze

What am I going to do...?!
THUMP...
I...
THUMP
whee-ze
THUMP
whee-ze
I...
THUMP
whee-ze
whee-ze
THUMP
THUMP

"GO HOME."
What am I supposed to do?
He was really mad.
THUMP
UU...
HICCUPS
THUMP
I... was so scared...
THUMP
I suddenly got so scared...
WHAT AM I GOING TO
THUMP
"WHO DO YOU THINK I AM ANYWAY?!"
IMA... SA...
HICCUP
I have no idea...
IMAI -SAN.

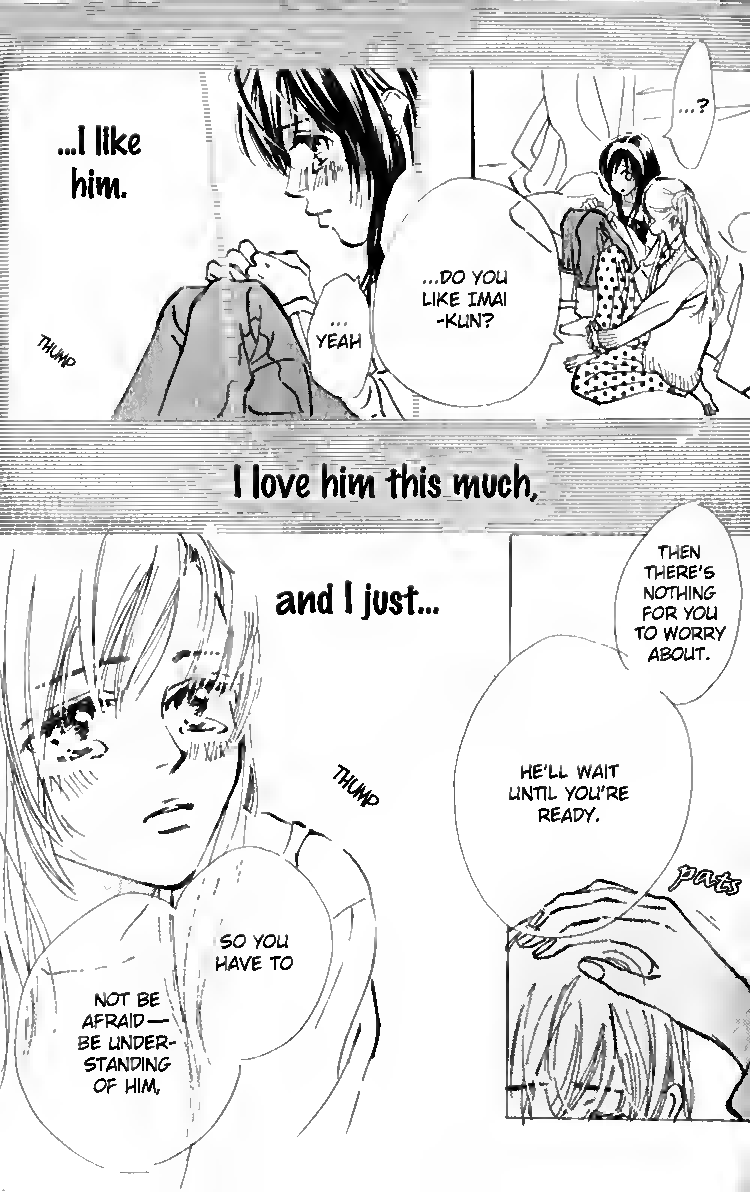
KOUNO
Ow Ow
HERE.
PA
TH-
ANKS
HICCUP
HAVE YOU CALMED DOWN A BIT NOW?
.....
HICC
I don't know ...

...That time,
...I RAN AWAY FROM HIM...
...MITSUKI-CHAN?
squeeze
"BE QUIET."
YEAH...
PANDA
IMAI-SAN WASN'T IMAI-SAN.
IT WAS AS IF...
it was as if he had suddenly turned into someone I didn't know.
...HE REALLY SURPRISED YOU, DIDN'T HE?
Because—

he's always gentle

whenever he embraces me...
and in his kisses too...

But...
"I'M NOT THAT DIFFERENT FROM OTHER GUYS."
...IT'S JUST,
HE COULDN'T HOLD BACK SOME OF THE STEAM THAT'S BEEN BUILDING UP...
DON'T WORRY, IMAI-KUN UNDER-STANDS.
HAHA, AS IF! DON'T BE RIDICU-LOUS
...HE HATES ME NOW, I KNOW IT!
BUT...


...I like him.
THUMP
...
YEAH
...DO YOU LIKE IMAI -KUN?
...?
I love him this much,
and I just...
THUMP
SO YOU HAVE TO
NOT BE AFRAID— BE UNDER-STANDING OF HIM.
THEN THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT.
HE'LL WAIT UNTIL YOU'RE READY.
pats

AND KNOW THAT HE IS A MAN, TOO.
"MITSUKI..."
...That day,
I left my key here.
I can't even go in...
301
IMAI
.....
MAYBE HE'S WORKING OVERTIME AGAIN...

I want to see you, Imai-san.

I'm too scared to call him...

...and he won't call me.

I'm scared...

...but I want to see him.

MAYBE... HE'S ON A BUSINESS TRIP.

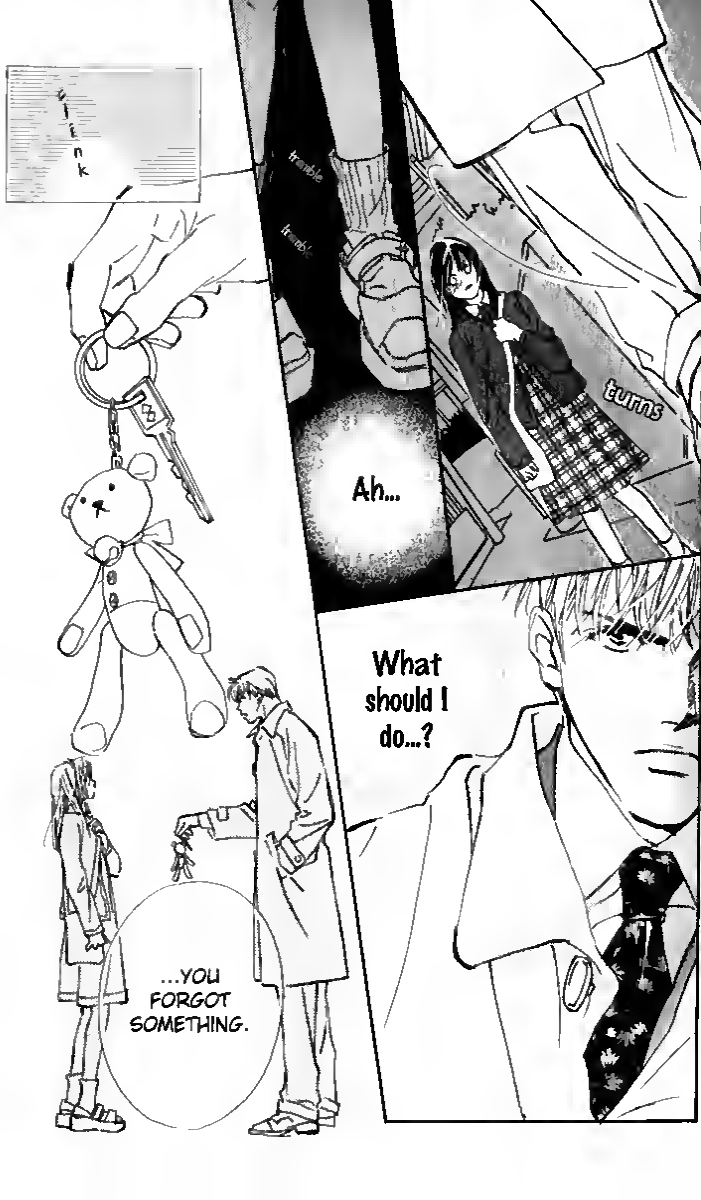
"DON'T WORRY, IMAI-KUN UNDERSTANDS."

Does he really?

Does he really not hate me?

I don't know how I should act when I see you,
but if I get to see you,
if I get to see your face...

THUMP


blink
tremble
tremble
Ah...
turns
What should I do...?
...YOU FORGOT SOMETHING.

cli
nk
clench
Imai
-san.
...OR DO
YOU
NOT
NEED IT
ANY-
MORE?

Imai
-san.
HICC.
Imai
-san.
HICC.
TENSE

—His arms are always
gentle and warm...

but...
tremble
tremble
THUMP!
!
squeeze
...DON'T BE SCARED.
I realized
cli
nk
that wasn't the only side to him.

Volume 2 Chapter 6

I couldn't figure out...
...how I should act around him.
slurrrrp
BUT...
...IN OVER TEN DAYS!
HE'S BEEN SO BUSY LATELY THAT I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM...
BUT YOU HAVEN'T SEE HIM?
Peach
...I CAN TALK WITH HIM NORMALLY OVER THE PHONE...

All I know is that I probably won't be able to act like nothing's happened.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW.
— WHETHER I WANT TO SEE HIM OR NOT.
LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT, YOU WENT OVER TO HIS PLACE WITHOUT TELLING HIM,
USED YOUR SPARE KEY,
AND THEN YOU RAN AWAY FROM HIM WHEN HE TRIED TO MAKE A MOVE ON YOU. TALK ABOUT TRAMPLING ALL OVER HIS PRIDE
—I KNEW IT. I'M THE BAD GUY HERE—
HMM
WELL, YOU TWO'RE
... GOING OUT AND IT'S NOT JUST THAT. YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT MARRYING THE GUY
CAN YOU HONESTLY SAY YOU WEREN'T EXPECTING A SITUATION LIKE THAT TO HAPPEN?

JSHOUJO SCANS

We now have our own ONLINE READER

Check it out! www.jshoujoscan.com/reader/

Hope to see you there!

-Jshoujo Staff

"DON'T BE SCARED"

I thought...

thump

...I was ready,

I DON'T KNOW...

but when I felt his arms around me...

...I suddenly got really scared.

Even though Imai-san's, Imai-san,

I was supposed to love every part of him...

No way!
HOW LONG HAVE YOU GUYS BEEN GOING OUT AGAIN?
M-MICHIRU-CHAN...
—THREE MONTHS
bright red
IF YOU KEEP BRUSHING HIM OFF LIKE THAT, HE'S GOING TO TURN TO SOMEONE ELSE.
Giggles
OH WELL, I GUESS I MIGHT AS WELL JUST DO IT.
YEAH—.
THUMP
WHATTT! YOU GUYS STILL HAVEN'T DONE IT YET?!
IT'S BEEN THREE MONTHS SINCE YOU'VE STARTED GOING OUT, RIGHT?!
WOW, I'M SURPRISED YOUR BOYFRIEND'S HOLDING OUT FOR SO LONG!
Beep! Sorry for him!
IT'S 'CAUSE HE'S MAKING IT SO OBVIOUS THAT HE WANTS TO, YOU KNOW?

B-BUT...!
I'M JUST KIDDING.
ANYWAY, I DON'T THINK THAT KIND OF THING IS ABOUT HOW MUCH TIME'S PASSED SINCE YOU'VE STARTED DATING.
BUT STILL, YOU KNOW — AH. PHONE CALL.
rinnch
Ah...
Don't tell me it's...
IS THAT FOR YOU?
ANSWER IT ALREADY.
The person's gonna hang up.
YEAH...
H-
What am I going to do...?
click
HELLO?
MITSUKI?
IT'S ME.
thump

di-ng do-ng
...Imai-san...
AH...
da-ng da-ng
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO GO HOME.
NO, THAT'S OKAY.
SORRY
ARE YOU STILL AT SCHOOL?
...I can't believe...
...I'm relieved that I won't be able to see him...
thump
thump
thump
ARE YOU STILL AT WORK?
sigh, of relief
...YEAH.
...
O-OH...
IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE PULLING A FEW ALL NIGHTERS THIS WEEK.
thump
...

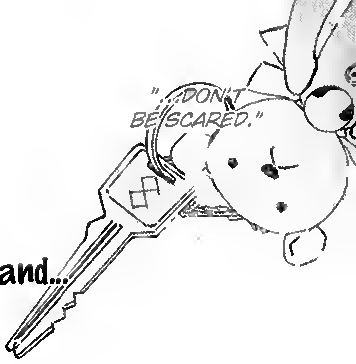
tense
EH...?!
I'LL BE FREE...
...SUNDAY.
What am I going to do?
UM
...MITSUKI?
thump
...I'M SORRY,
What am I going to do?
UM...
thump
thump
...AH...
...
thump
UM... WITH... MICHIRU-CHAN
I ALREADY MADE PLANS FOR THIS SUNDAY
thump
OH, I SEE.

Wow...
AH!
SEE YOU.
BYE!
I'LL CALL AGAIN
THAT'S OKAY
I-
I'M
SORR-
I turned him down...
DEPRESSED
...
NO WAY
...
I DON'T REMEMBER MAKING ANY PLANS WITH YOU
I'M REALLY, REALLY SORRY!
I-
WELL, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO, SO I DON'T MIND HANGING OUT WITH YOU ON SUNDAY
I-
BUT MITSUKI,
CHEATING ISN'T SOMETHING YOU SHOULD RULE OUT COMPLETELY
MICHIRU-CHAN, WHAT DID I JUST DO!!

"IMAI-SAN"'S AN ADULT. HE PROBABLY DOESN'T HAVE THAT SHORT OF A FUSE,
EH...?
BUT BECAUSE HE IS A GROWN-UP, HE PROBABLY WOULDN'T BE SATISFIED WITH JUST FEELINGS IN A RELATIONSHIP.
IF YOU KEEP AVOIDING HIM LIKE THIS,
HIS FEELINGS FOR YOU MIGHT COOL DOWN.
...No way...
"HE'LL WAIT UNTIL YOU'RE READY."

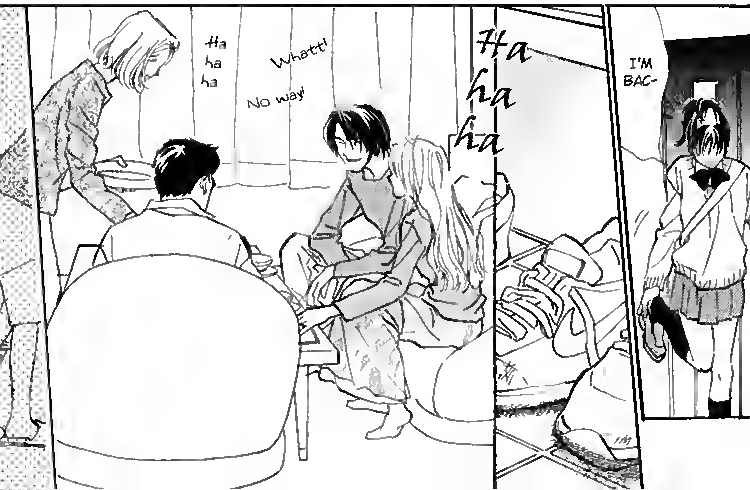
...
...that wouldn't...
IT'S A BIT EARLY, BUT HAVE DINNER WITH ME
ARE YOU FOOTING THE BILL?
DON'T BRING YOUR PERSONAL PROBLEMS INTO WORK!
He'll be right down the middle
NICE TRY!

...he wouldn't be satisfied with just feelings?



The spare key in my hand...

...feels heavier
than before.



WHA——TTTTTT?!
A BAB-
.what
HELLO
MITSUKI-CHAN WELCOME BACK
I'm just visiting
WHAT'S EVERYONE DOING HERE?
HEY, WELCOME BACK!
TALK ABOUT SURPRISES!
WE'VE GOT SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE ABOUT
Well you don't have to be that surprised
I'M JUST GLAD SHE CAN STILL FIT INTO HER WEDDING DRESS
We only just got her fitting over and done with
WHA-
SHE'S PREGNANT. WITH A B-A-B-Y.

Chizu-chan's pregnant...?!
HEY, HEY!
MAYBE WE SHOULD CANCEL?
ARE YOU GOING TO BE OKAY ON YOUR HONEY-MOON?
A baby?!
...!
I can't believe it...!!
STEP
MITSUKI.
Now that I think about it, she DID stay over at his place a bunch of times.
WHAAA!
...Then that means she... did THAT ... with him!
KYAAA!
WHAAA!

I WAS PLANNING FOR US TO BE ALONE FOR A BIT LONGER,
BUT HE SEEMS TO BE PRETTY ECSTATIC ABOUT STARTING A FAMILY OF HIS OWN.
Look, see?
HE BOUGHT A BUNCH OF BABY NAME BOOKS.
ON OUR WAY HOME FROM THE CHECK-UP,
YEAH
OZAWA-SAN?
Ha ha ha.
YEAH, IT WAS A PRETTY BIG SHOCK FOR ME, TOO. APPARENTLY, I'M THREE MONTHS IN.
ARE YOU SHOCKED?
T-THAT'S AN UNDER-STATEMENT!
GASP
WE DID MAKE OUR WEDDING PLANS BEFORE, BUT TALK ABOUT HAVING EVERYTHING IN THE WRONG ORDER!
IT HASN'T REALLY HIT ME YET THOUGH BEING PREGNANT, I MEAN

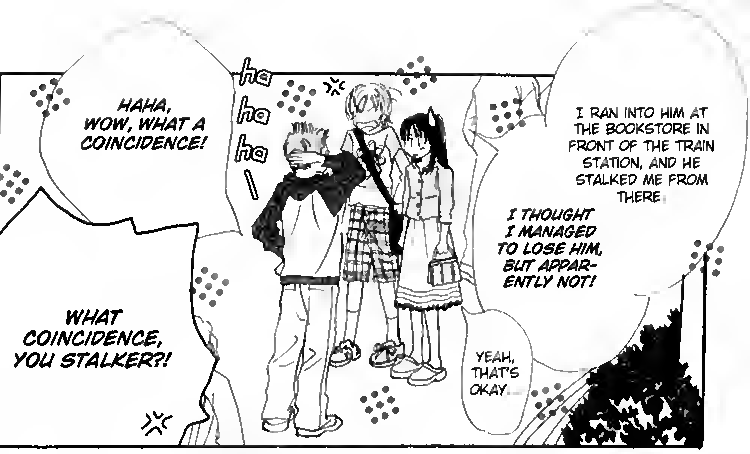
ARE YOU HAPPY?
chuckles
CONGRATULATIONS!
giggle
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
C-CHIZU-CHAN!!
BUT REMEMBER! YOU'RE STILL IN SCHOOL!
MAKE SURE THAT IMAI-KUN TAKES EVERY PRECAUTION POSSIBLE!
SO DON'T YOU TRY AND PULL SOMETHING LIKE THIS!
chuckles
WHAT? IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU KNOW THIS!
ANYWAY, GOOD LUCK
EVERY-THING'LL TURN OUT OKAY IN THE END
rustle

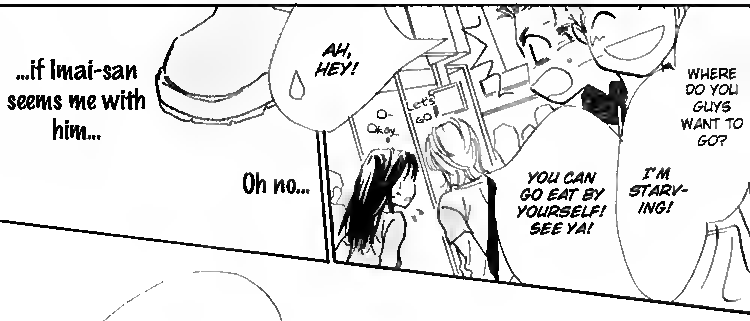
YOU CAN'T THINK OF DOING IT WITH ANYONE ELSE BUT HIM, RIGHT?
IT'S THE SAME FOR ME. I CAN'T THINK OF BEING WITH ANYONE ELSE BUT MY FIANCÉ.
THAT'S WHY I'M HAPPY.
What are you reading?
Yo!
...Chizu-chan...

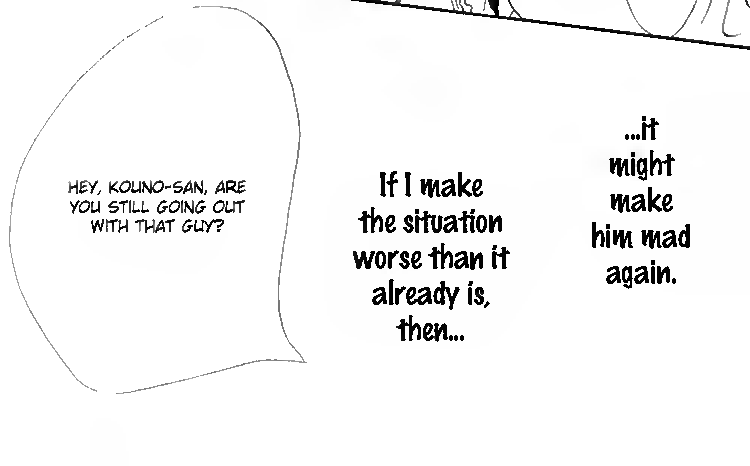
...If only I were a grown up like Chizu-chan,
I wouldn't be wracking my head over something like this.
"THAT'S WHY I'M HAPPY."
I thought I was ready for it.
Christmas. and before then, too.
thump
Always.
It was always like that.
I was always just taking advantage of his kindness and avoiding THAT.
But in reality,

There's no reason for me to run away.
"I'LL CALL AGAIN."
"BE QUIET."
And,
I don't know how long Imai-san will wait for me.
Please...
THUMP

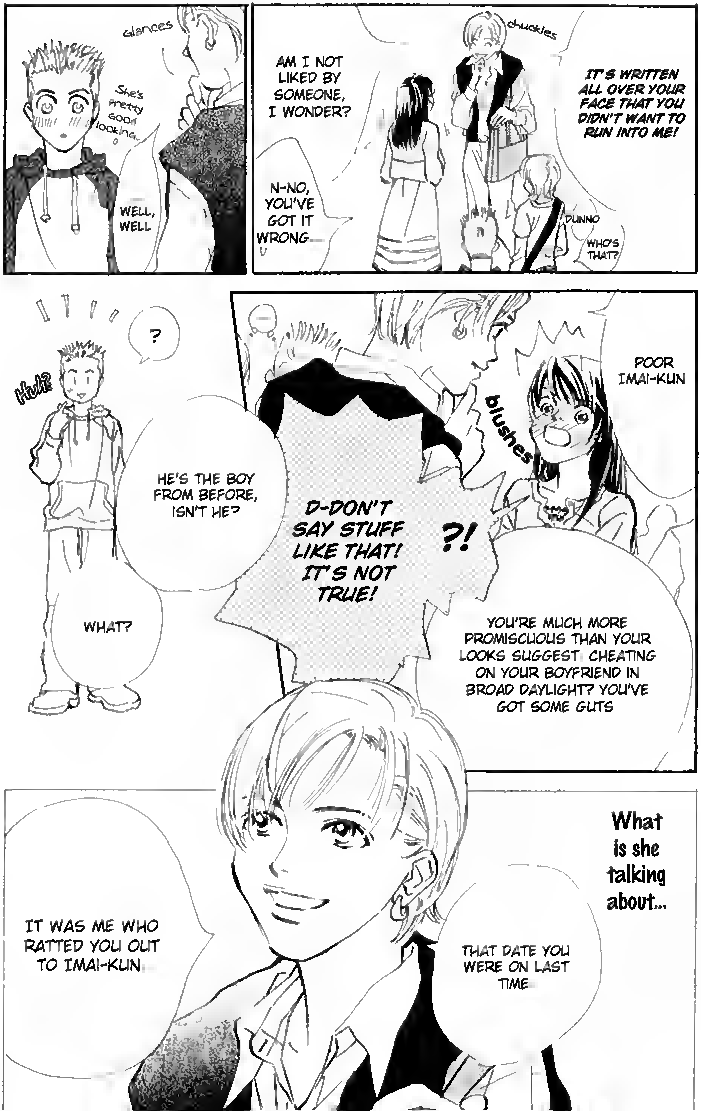
...wait just a little longer...
he-
h♡
THE WEATHER'S NICE, AND IT'S JUST A GREAT DAY TO BE OUTSIDE!
SINCE IT IS SUNDAY AND ALL, I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE A NICE DAY TO GO OUTSIDE.
SORRY MITSUKI...
KAY?
...O


HAHA, WOW, WHAT A COINCIDENCE!
ha ha ha!
I RAN INTO HIM AT THE BOOKSTORE IN FRONT OF THE TRAIN STATION, AND HE STALKED ME FROM THERE.
I THOUGHT I MANAGED TO LOSE HIM, BUT APPARENTLY NOT!
WHAT COINCIDENCE, YOU STALKER?!
YEAH, THAT'S OKAY...


...if Imai-san seems me with him...
AH, HEY!
Let's go!
O-Okay.
Oh no...
WHERE DO YOU GUYS WANT TO GO?
I'M STARVING!
YOU CAN GO EAT BY YOURSELF! SEE YA!

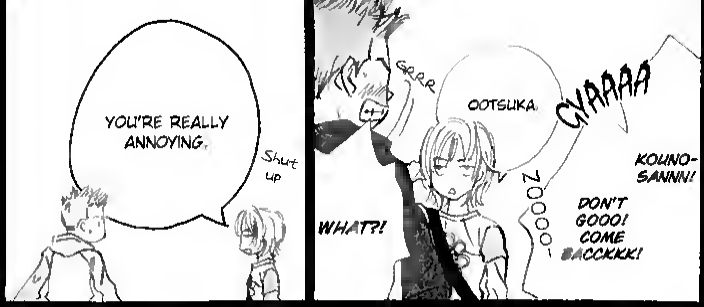

HEY, KOUNO-SAN, ARE YOU STILL GOING OUT WITH THAT GUY?
If I make the situation worse than it already is, then...
...it might make him mad again.

Hmm.
HE'S NO GOOD, I CAN TELL!
HE HAD THAT LOOK IN HIS EYE, YOU KNOW? AND HE SEEMED REALLY VIOLENT.
WELL, HE IS PRETTY GOOD-LOOKING I'LL GIVE YOU THAT
BUT HE'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU.
thump...
IMAI-SAN'S-
AHHH!
I CAUGHT YOU CHEATING!
WHAT A COINCI-DENCE!
THE COMPANY I WORK FOR'S JUST OVER THERE.
..WELL I GUESS YOU CAN'T REALLY SAY THAT ABOUT TODAY.
AH...


glances
She's pretty good looking...
WELL, WELL
AM I NOT LIKED BY SOMEONE, I WONDER?
chuckles
IT'S WRITTEN ALL OVER YOUR FACE THAT YOU DIDN'T WANT TO RUN INTO ME!
N-NO, YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG...
DUNNO
WHO'S THAT?
POOR IMAI-KUN
blushes
D-DON'T SAY STUFF LIKE THAT! IT'S NOT TRUE!
?!
YOU'RE MUCH MORE PROMISCUOUS THAN YOUR LOOKS SUGGEST. CHEATING ON YOUR BOYFRIEND IN BROAD DAYLIGHT? YOU'VE GOT SOME GUTS
Huh?
?
HE'S THE BOY FROM BEFORE, ISN'T HE?
WHAT?
What is she talking about...
IT WAS ME WHO RATTED YOU OUT TO IMAI-KUN
THAT DATE YOU WERE ON LAST TIME

Wh—
WHY...!
EVEN IF IT'S IMAI-KUN, HE'S OBVIOUSLY GOING TO BE HURT...
...IF HIS GIRLFRIEND WAS GOING AROUND SEEING SOME OTHER GUY WHO KNOWS WHERE.
Gasp!
...So he...
...wasn't mad...
...he was just... jealous?
thump...
AH...
I'VE NOTICED THOUGH
THAT HE'S BEEN SAYING YES A LOT LATELY WHEN I ASK HIM IF HE WANTS TO GO OUT DRINKING.

...He said he wouldn't get back until late at night...
...that wasn't because he was working?
Hmmm
WHAT...?
HE ALWAYS TURNED ME DOWN BEFORE, BUT SUDDENLY HE'S—
MAYBE HE JUST...
GOT TIRED OF BABYSITTING YOU?
MAYBE I WENT TOO FAR.
Oh well
Whoosh
WHYYY?!
KOUNO-SAN?!
...!
AH!
flashes



"IF YOU KEEP BRUSHING HIM OFF LIKE THAT, HE'S GOING TO TURN TO SOMEONE ELSE."

"—HIS FEELINGS FOR YOU MIGHT COOL DOWN."

THUMP

No...!

Imai-san!

NO, NO, NO!!

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

301 Imai

WHAT'S GOING ON?
I THOUGHT YOU MADE PLANS WITH YOUR FRIEND?
...MITSUKI?
...!
thump
thump
thump
thump
wheeze
wheeze
wheeze
wheeze
wheeze
rustle
AH...
thump
flip

thump
What should I do?
thump
tense
IS COFFEE OKAY?
IT'S INSTANT COFFEE THOUGH.
YEAH
SQUEEZE
thump
tremble
tremble
"YOU CAN'T THINK OF DOING IT WITH ANYONE ELSE BUT HIM, RIGHT?"
thump
thump

THUD
LET'S GO OUT TO DINNER TONIGHT.
...Imai-san.
pours
WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO COME HERE OUT OF THE BLUE?
Imai-san.
I ONLY HAVE STUFF I BOUGHT FROM THE CONVENIENCE STORE...
Imai-san!

squeeze
tremble
tremble
tremble
...
MITSUKI?
MITSUKI?
HEY...
...He smells of cigarettes.
I WANTED TO SEE YOU...
WHAT?
...SEE YOU
...thump
It's Imai-san's scent.

thump
I-
I...
...WON'T RUN AWAY THIS TIME.
I'm so stupid.
SO...
SO...
I wanted to see him so much and I...
MITSUKI,
...I'm not scared.
tremble
tremble
thump
HEY...
P-PLEASE DON'T CHEAT ON ME...
Don't be scared...
S-
SO...
thump

...
DON'T HATE ME!
squeeze
!
...!

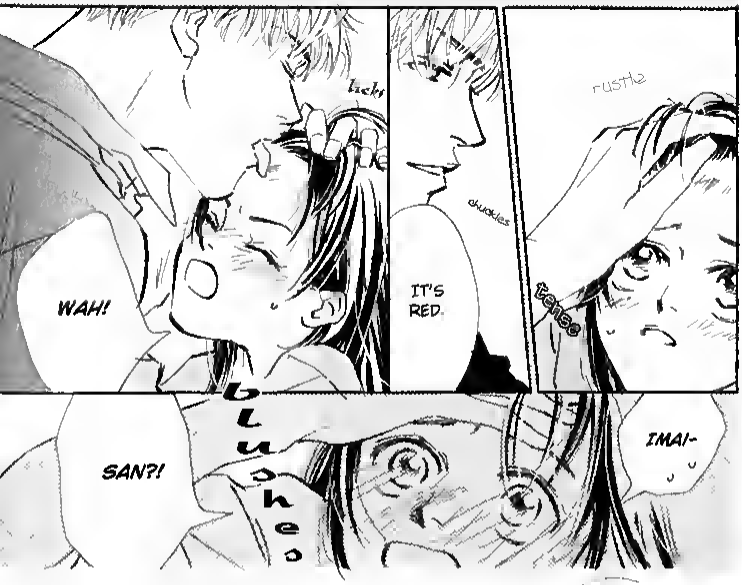
I can't stop shaking ...
thump
MITSUKI
tense
thump
AH
Oh no.
thump
What should I do?
thump
It's as if my whole body's in sync with every heart beat...
thump
I have to calm down..
Calm down --!

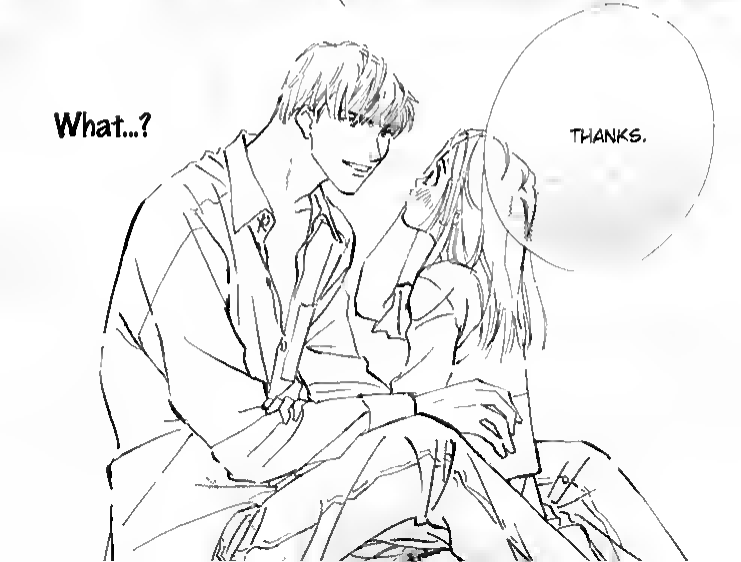
Noo, this is so embarrassing!
No way!
I ran all the way here, so I...
D-Don't tell me I'm all sweaty?!
?!
Realization
No! No! What am I gonna do?!
B-Before doing something like this, you're supposed to take a shower, right?!
Ugh, I can't believe it! I'm such a loser!
—U-UM... I—
Whack
GAH!
Ishouju Scans

W-What's going on...?
blink
~~~~
THROB
THROB
?!
~~~~
owwwww
...AH...
SHOCK-
-ED
OH NO...
I-
IMAI-SAN...
NO WAY...
I AM SO, SO...
I can't believe it!
No way...!

I-IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THIS...
Ow ow
...LIM...
HA...
HA HA HA HA HA HA!
OWWWW...
Ha ha ha
HA HA HA.
HA HA HA.
WH-
blushes
WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU!
S-SORRY, IT'S JUST..
I can't stop!
HA HA HA HA
IDIOT!

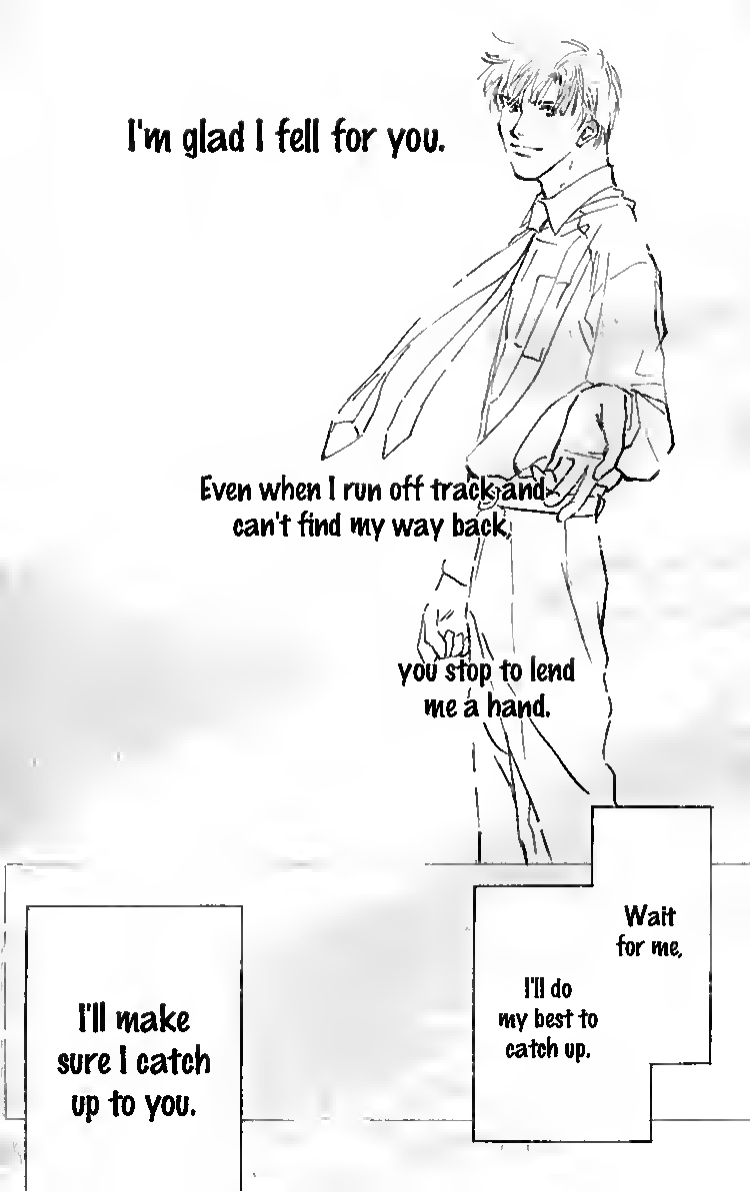
Y-YOU'RE LAUGHING WAYYY TOO MUCH!
grins
HA HA HA!
...This is so stupid.
A HA HA HA HA
This is so messed up!
Haha, I can't believe it...
HA
PULLS
thump
.....!
thud
AH...


WAH!
kuchi
IT'S RED.
chuckles
rustle
tense
IMAI-
SAN?!
blushes


What...?
THANKS.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUSH.
I UNDERSTAND.
...Imai-san.
squeeze
Imai-san.
...IMAI-SAN, I REALLY DO LOVE YOU
I WON'T CHEAT ON YOU.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO PUSH YOURSELF TO DO SOMETHING YOU'RE NOT READY TO DO. RELAX.
AH...
Tsk
NOW GET OFF. IF WE STAY IN THIS POSITION ANY LONGER, I DON'T THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO HOLD BACK.

JUST DON'T GET ME TOO RILED UP.
...It's true.


I'm glad I fell for you.
Even when I run off track and can't find my way back,
you stop to lend me a hand.
Wait for me,
I'll do my best to catch up.
I'll make sure I catch up to you.

...ENDED UP DOING NOTHING?
SO YOU GUYS...
Let me go
GEEZ, I GIVE UP ON YOU GUYS
HEH, HEH
NOOO MICHIRU-CHAN!
BUY ME SOME-THING!
IT WAS HELL HAVING TO DEAL WITH THAT RETARD AFTER YOU LEFT
But,
to be honest, there's a part of me
that wants something more than just his gentle kisses and hugs.
KYOTO...?
YES, THE OTHER COMPANY SPECIALLY REQUESTED YOU.
—That's a bit too embar-rassing to tell him just yet though!
AND, I'M SURE YOU'LL HAVE NO TROUBLE FITTING IN OVER THERE. WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Chizu-chan,
I can tell you with a straight face,
SAY THAT YOU'LL GO AND WORK THERE FOR SIX MONTHS?
that right now, I'm just as happy as you.

<< To be continued >>

EXTRA #9
THE SPHINX SCARE

I flipped through a magazine after I decided I needed to do something about my mountain witch-like growth of a do

This was how Fujipom's nightmare began

This is a true story that happened several months ago

Not only that but it's easy to maintain!

OOO...

Snip Snip

LET'S GO WITH THIS ONE

HEH.

I discovered an article that explained everything from the size of the curlers to how to curl to how to even cut the hair it also came with pictures

A WAVY PERMED HAIR THAT SUITS WITH IT LIGHTNESS

THE SHAGGY LAYERS CARRY WITH IT

You can't do using large curlers

Blow it out for a straight look

I thought that with an article as in depth as this, it should turn out pretty close

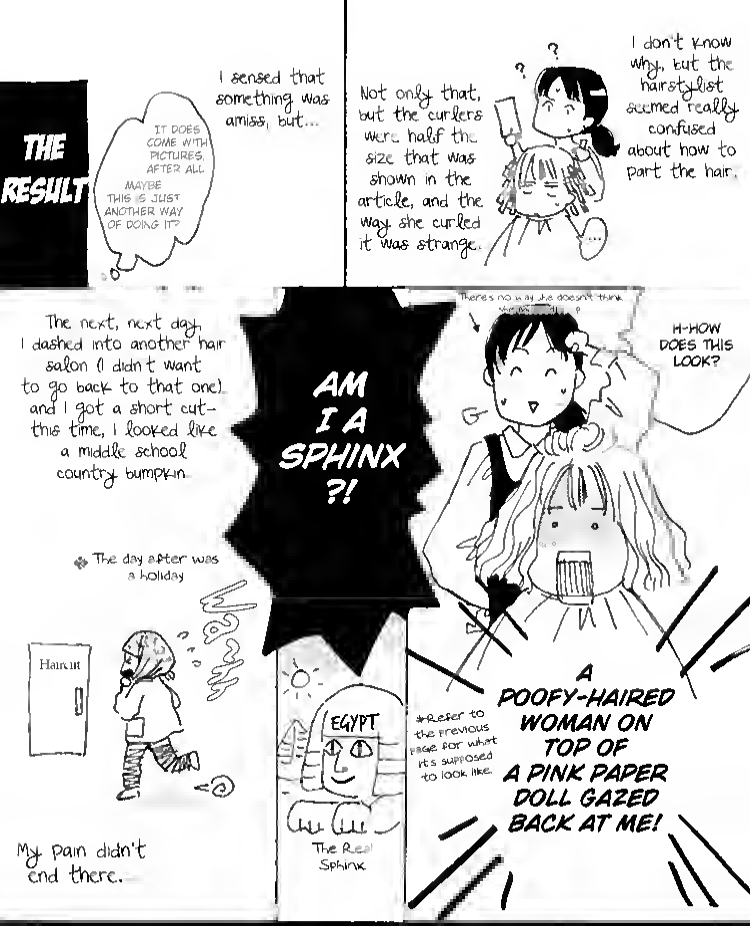
(Putting aside how good looking the model is)

Whenever I got a perm, I regretted it, so I'd been sticking to short cuts lately

Please look at this Heh heh

There was a time when I even looked French

My hair's all floppy


THE RESULT
I sensed that something was amiss, but...
IT DOES COME WITH PICTURES, AFTER ALL
MAYBE THIS IS JUST ANOTHER WAY OF DOING IT?
Not only that, but the curlers were half the size that was shown in the article, and the way she curled it was strange.
I don't know why, but the hairstylist seemed really confused about how to part the hair.
The next, next day, I dashed into another hair salon (I didn't want to go back to that one), and I got a short cut- this time, I looked like a middle school country bumpkin.
AM I A SPHINX ?!
There's no way she doesn't think my hair looks weird.
H-HOW DOES THIS LOOK?
The day after was a holiday
Haircut
My pain didn't end there.
EGYPT
The Real Sphinx
*Refer to the previous page for what it's supposed to look like.
A POOFY-HAIRED WOMAN ON TOP OF A PINK PAPER DOLL GAZED BACK AT ME!

I am always eagery awaiting your letters.
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MARGARET
COMICS

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